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Harrison Street Park Rehabilitation Involves Borough, Neighbors

Discussions about the rehabilitation of Harrison Street Park have been ongoing, and have involved members of Borough Council and staff; neighbors, including the group Harrison Street Park Friends; and Edgewater Design LLC, a Millburn-based firm.

A recent meeting about the park brings the Borough closer to finalizing the design plans, which means that construction may begin by April of next year. Borough Council member and President of the Princeton Parks Alliance Andrew Koontz mentioned that "the Borough has had Harrison Street Park on their to-do list for quite a while," adding that the "planning process has never come as far as it has now."

Friends of Princeton Open Space naturalist Steve Hiltner was hired by the Borough in 2006 to do an ecological assessment and stewardship plan for the park, which included a look at water flow and drainage, and types of plant species that were present or missing.

Describing the initial part of the design process with landscape architectural firm Edgewater as frustrating because their vision did not align with that of the neighbors, Mr. Hiltner observed that meetings between Borough staff and neighbors over the summer had led to a working agreement.

Borough engineer Christopher Budzinski characterized the December meeting between the design firm, staff, and public as having a positive general outcome, and achieving "the consensus needed to move forward with these plans," though he admitted some fine-tuning needs to be done.

The preliminary estimate for the park's complete rehabilitation, including all of the suggested design elements, totals $822,465. Mr. Budzinski noted that once the plans are finalized and approved by Borough Council, the work would be contracted out utilizing the Borough's normal bid process.

Mr. Koontz anticipated that the rehabilitation would occur in a few phases, and as funding comes in from the Borough and Recreation Department, each phase of the project could commence, thereby adding more elements.

"I think we'll be on target to start taking care of the drainage issues of the park in the spring," Mr. Koontz said, adding that he's "very much looking forward to

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School Board Sees Threat to Local Control

School Board President Alan Hegedus and Superintendent Judy Wilson have requested a meeting with state senators to discuss proposed legislation that may have profound effects on the Princeton Regional School District. At last week's Board meeting, Mr. Hegedus noted that "we're under a threat from the legislature suggesting that we may not have local options to sustain what we've built." He asked for "understanding by the community to look at where we are and support the Board in efforts to keep erosion at bay. This is not a drill."

Questions about recent State Department of Education initiatives were the pervasive theme of the meeting. Of particular concern, as Ms. Wilson noted in her opening comments, were proposed changes to the budget preparation process, and a "one-size-fits-all" high school redesign proposal.

In his Finance Committee report, Chair Josh Leinsdorf elaborated on a state proposal that would eliminate local elections to approve the district's annual budget, leaving, he said, "what happens in the schools in the hands of 21 county districts." Because the "state is technically broke and can't come up with an aid formula for the schools," he added, "Governor Corzine and the legislature have decided that school districts don't have to pay their pension contributions in the coming budget year to make up for the shortfall in state aid. It's the old routine of 'smoke and mirrors.'"

New Jersey School Board liaison Rebecca Cox similarly reported that the state is discussing canceling local voting on school budgets and delaying the election of school board members from April to November. While these changes may work for less well-performing districts, she said, they do not bode well for Princeton, and she encouraged residents to contact their local representatives to express their concern.

Describing the state measures as a "forced march to mediocrity" and "a vise out of Trenton," Mr. Hegedus observed that "what has changed in the last year is the rate of expectations out of our state government as to how we should be allowed to sustain this level of performance.

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Environmental Commission Plans 2009 Budget, Hears Park Reports

The Princeton Environmental Commission met last Wednesday to determine a spending plan for the remainder of the 2008 budget, discuss the budget for the upcoming year, and hear reports for Mountain Lakes Preserve and Marquand Park.

After a discussion about the allocation of funds from the remains of the 2008 budget, the commission decided to purchase compost bins and recycling containers for Princeton Regional Schools, as well as Kill-A-Watt meters. An additional bicycle rack for the school system was also considered.

The 2009 budget, which totals $7,000, was passed after discussion about how

Continued on Page 8

CELEBRATION OF LIGHT: Princeton Latin Academy student Maryam Muhammad lending the light of a smile and a candle to the Saturnalia celebration jointly held by the Latin Academy and the Princeton Science Academy. The music of the holidays was combined with the students' recitations in Latin, Greek, and English; choruses; and symbolic skits. Besides the lighting of candles, there were readings for the various religions represented (some in multiple languages), Islam, Judaism, and Christianity; the celebration of Kwaanza was also recognized. (Photo by Paul Mendelsky)

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Town Topics
Princeton's Community Newspaper

TELEVISIONARIES: Sharyn Murray (left) shows Michel Mockers and George McCollough (standing) her latest work inside the studio at Princeton Community Television. Originally created by the Borough and Township in January 1997, the non-profit television station also functions as an educational facility, community media center, and creative space that is open to all members of the public.

(Photo by Dibbianne Perrine)

Helping People "Find Their Own Voice": Princeton Community TV Does It Right

While many residents have probably chanced upon Princeton Community Television while flipping through the channels, most don't know that they can work on their own shows on site at the station, or take classes there to gain video-making expertise.

TOPICS Of the Town

Station manager George McCollough said that the best part of his job is being able to say yes to people and help them with the creative process. "I like the idea of giving people freedom, and they have to be responsible for their own actions, but as long as they're willing to do that, anything is possible."

Housed in the Valley Road School building at 369 Witherspoon Street, the cable-access station is the town's hidden jewel where multimedia dreams can be realized. "Our main thing is to let people communicate, and have them find their own voice," Mr. McCollough explained.

Part of the station's mission is to function as an educational facility, which is something they have focused on over the past year. "We've developed a whole computer lab, and we've started teaching courses," Mr. McCollough noted, adding that he is "looking for feedback from the public regarding courses people would be interested in."

Community-produced programs that air on the channel include a cooking show, critical commentary about the planet's future, comedy, interviews with interesting local personalities, musical acts, movie reviews, and others.

In a monthly live show, Adam Bierman and Fahad Javaid team up for "Breezin' with Bierman" to interview all kinds of people and "do something different, be funny, and think about something with entertainment savvy," the program's namesake remarked in an interview.

Mr. Bierman characterized the show as one of "topical talk," and recent guests have included a realtor talking about the housing market; Tom Nesi, the author of *Poison Pills*, which is about the Vioxx drug scandal; chef Anthony Pierrard, who makes Gillian's Gourmet marinara sauce found in local groceries, and a host of other characters including professors, producers, and politicians.

"Breezin' with Bierman" also features area musicians as live guests in a segment coordinated by Mr. Javaid, who appears on the show as a character called the Captain.

Aside from the interview and musical act, Mr. Bierman and Mr. Javaid offer up commentary about all things contemporary, as well as their own lives. At their last screening, Mr. Bierman took some time to sing to his wife

Continued on Next Page

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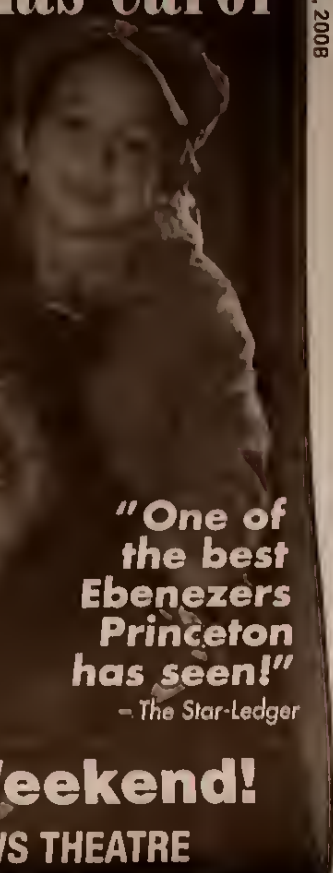
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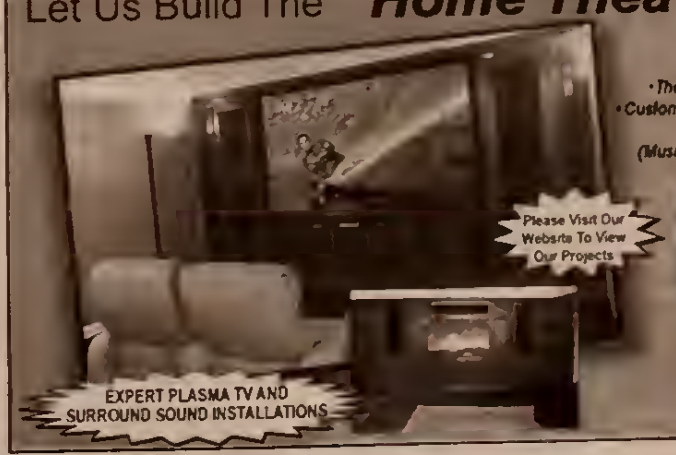
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SALUD! When Gary Mount began planning a vineyard at his family farm, Terhune Orchards in Princeton, he enlisted the aid of Advertising Design students at Mercer County Community College. Designing a label for the "Terhune Orchards Vinyard and Winery" became a class project for Patrick Lyons' Advertising Design Typography class. Gary, his wife Pam, and the Mount family reported that they were very pleased with the results, and brought the designs home for their family to evaluate. Each winning student will receive a $50 gift certificate to the Terhune Orchards store, where all of the designs will be on display. The orchard hopes to begin making wine next fall, and has planted four varietals, cabernet franc, chambourcin, vidal blanc, and traminett. Pictured (from left): are advertising design program coordinator Tina LaPlaca, Dean Judith Ehresman, senior adjunct faculty member Patrick Lyons, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, Gary Mount, and the students with the top designs: Karen Steimle, Michal Labno, and Matt Rybinski.

Community TV

Continued from Preceding Page

while Mr. Javaid provided backup vocals. "I make all types of comments on the show," remarked Mr. Bierman, who joked, "It's very liberating not knowing what you're going to say next."

Having grown up in Princeton (PHS Class of '78), and travelled all over the world ("I've been to 44 states and 30 countries"), Mr. Bierman heard about the local cable-access station when he returned home, and thought, "Why can't I just do a show? I was on WPHS years ago doing a show, so this is like Part II. There's a second act!

"I think it's irreverent, and it's funny," Mr. Bierman asserted, adding, "I deliver my id." Characterizing the importance of community television as rooted in its democratic nature, he said that "if TV30 should become somewhat of a force and if it's watched, it could have a lot to communicate about the town."

Mr. McCollough expressed similar sentiments, saying "I've always been fascinated by the process of regular folks making television." His own enchantment with the medium happened as he "went to college to study television because I thought it was going to be an easy major ... but it didn't turn out that way," he said with a laugh.

Having worked at a number of cable-access stations before arriving at PCTV in 2005, Mr. McCollough has also made feature-length documentaries about social justice issues ranging from gentrification to the prison system.

The instruments of video and television were a source of early intrigue for Mr. McCollough, who joked, "I used to fantasize about being a punk rock musician, back when everyone seemed to have a recording studio, but then video equipment started becoming cheap, and I thought ... a TV camera is going to become more punk than a guitar, so I decided to start with that."

He finds "the technology, and how it is that people can use technology to have voice" particularly piquant.

"Breezin' with Bierman" airs live on the last Friday of every month at 8 p.m. on Comcast channel 30 or Verizon FiOS 45, and is rebroadcast on Fridays at 8. Princeton Community Television can be reached at (609) 252-1963 or at www.princetontv.org.

—Dilshanie Perera

Topics In Brief
A Community Bulletin

Effective January 1, the **Convenience Center** on River Road will no longer be open every Saturday during the year, the Princeton Sewer Operating Committee has announced. It will continue to be open on Mondays (except for legal Holidays) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., and on the following Saturdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23, June 13, June 27, July 11, August 8, August 22, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.

The Arts Council of Princeton, in cooperation with Palmer Square Management and the Nassau Inn, invites carolers of all ages to attend its annual **Christmas Eve Caroling** on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:15 p.m. on the Green at Palmer Square. Carolers are encouraged to bring candles, lanterns, flashlights, and bells. Song books will be provided. This event is free. For more information, call the Arts Council at (609) 924-8777 or log on at www.artscouncilofprinceton.org.

Library Board Approves Six-Month Trial of DVD Dispensing Machine

At its monthly meeting last week, the Princeton Public Library Board of Trustees approved a six-month trial of an outdoor Redbox, a $1-a-night DVD dispensing machine that would be located near the driveway at the rear of the library. The only other Redbox site in Princeton right now is at McCaffrey's supermarket, with others nearby at the Skillman and Route One Shoprites, Wegmans, and the Princeton Junction Acme.

DVD VENDING: The Princeton Public Library is planning to install an outdoor Redbox, offering $1-a-day DVD rentals, near its rear entrance. (Photo from http://quiddlebits.files.wordpress.com/2007/08/redbox.jpg)

Redbox was founded in 2002 by Coinstar, a subsidiary of McDonalds. There are currently 12,000 kiosks in locations around the U.S. Each contains 500 DVDs, representing 125 titles which are changed on a weekly basis. Users can order their titles online before picking them up at a Redbox kiosk, where they pay for them using a credit or debit card. Redbox DVDs can be returned to any Redbox location, with the originating site getting credit for the rental.

In exchange for providing a location and power, the library will receive three cents on every dollar spent on a Redbox DVD. At Tuesday's meeting, Media Librarian Barbara Silberstein described how Redbox's presence would relieve the library of having to be buy multiple copies of fleetingly popular new films, enabling them to purchase more foreign language films, "indie" productions, and TV series.

Several board members questioned whether the modest amount of money the Redbox arrangement could potentially accrue — $500 at most — made it a worthwhile proposition. Treasurer Ira Fuchs suggested that it might actually be a money-losing venture. The library currently earns between $60- and $70,000 a year on its DVD rentals, and some concern was expressed about whether the availability of Redbox DVDs might cut into this revenue stream. There was also a question about whether the box's proposed location would cause a bottleneck.

Acknowledging that it provided a potential community service and might increase the breadth of the library's own DVD collection, the board ultimately approved a six-month trial of the Redbox system.

—Ellen Gilbert

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University Submits Payment Of $1.18 Million to Borough

Princeton University has submitted the final installment of its nearly $1.18 million special payment to the Borough of Princeton for 2008. This special payment, as determined by a six-year agreement between the University and the Borough that was signed in 2006, began with a base payment in 2006 of $1 million.

Each year the payment is increased by the percentage increase in the municipal portion of the Borough real estate tax and a percentage derived from the net increase over the previous year in total square footage of tax exempt space owned by the University in the Borough. The 2008 payment of $1,176,730.20 is an increase of $84,130.20 over the 2007 payment.

The annual payment is in addition to taxes paid by the University on non-exempt property and on all non-dormitory housing that is kept voluntarily on the tax rolls. The University is the largest taxpayer in the Borough.

In addition to this special payment, the University each year makes a $35,000 contribution to the Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad and a $20,000 contribution to the Princeton Fire Department in recognition and support of the emergency services that these community organizations provide to the campus. The University also makes one-time contributions to community organizations and special Borough initiatives, including the recently introduced Free-B jitney service.

Police Blotter

Princeton Township

On December 19 at 10:11 a.m. a vehicle driven by Ingrid Strachan, 41, of Trenton and traveling north on Quaker Road slid on the icy surface, crossed into the opposite lane of travel, and struck a vehicle driven by Jill Dantuono, 42, of Princeton. Both drivers were transported to University Medical Center at Princeton (UMCP) where they were treated for minor injuries and released. The vehicles were towed from the scene.

On December 19 at 2:04 p.m. a vehicle driven by Miho Gallagher, 36, of Princeton Junction was traveling north on Mercer Road when it slid on the snow-covered surface, the driver lost control, struck a tree, and suffered a minor head injury. She was treated and released from UMCP.

On December 20 at 1:15 a.m. Princeton Borough Police responded to a complaint of a noisy group in the area of Riverside Drive and Prospect Avenue. Seven juveniles were arrested for consuming alcoholic beverages. They were taken into custody and released to their parents pending charges in Family Court.

Princeton Borough

Melissa Appio, 29, of Monmouth Junction, was arrested on December 20, at 1:42 a.m. for DWI. She was later released.

TOWN TALK©

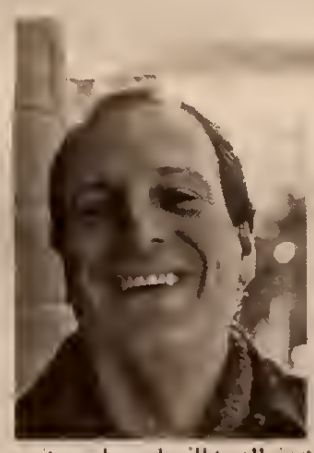
A forum for the expression of opinions about local and national issues.

Question of the Week:

"What are you wishing for this holiday season?"

"Economic prosperity and peace."
— Brack Collier, Cherry Hill

"I'm wishing for people to look around and be grateful for what they have and not try to evaluate what they don't have."
—Maria Johnson, Skillman



"Peace and prosperity and good will to all, just like every year."
—John Lambert, Rocky Hill

"I'm wishing for some good news. Some peace, some turn in the economy, something positive for the country."
—Michelle Zechner, Pelham Street

"I'm wishing for a good time off from work, relaxing with my wife and great weather."
—Erik Tsuno, John Street

Wind-Up Bears, Soldiers, Knife-Grinders Among Windrows Resident's Treasured Toys

Lester Arstark used to limit his antiques-loving wife Janice's expeditions. "Three antique shops all the way to Maine!" she exclaimed recently, describing his impatience with her passion. Then, in the late 1970s, he caught the bug himself. The result is the extraordinary collection of antique toys that now lines the shelves of Mr. Arstark's office in their Windrows home.

Coming from a family that owned 5 & 10s, it's not surprising that the former advertising executive gravitated toward toys as collectibles. Tin toys, that is. Mr. Arstark makes it clear that tin toys, with their interesting manufacturing process and bright colors have it all over iron toys, which are "clunky" and could easily be made to look older than they actually were by getting them rusty.

Mr. Arstark's sources were junk stores, antique stores, and, surprisingly perhaps, hardware stores. "They didn't sell toys as a main item," he explained, but sometimes "they had them in the basement," often in mint condition. Asked how much he paid for some of his toys, which span the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, Mr. Arstark says he doesn't remember; "the pursuit was more important than trying to make money."

His collection ranges from a simple National Biscuit Co. wagon, to a line of soldiers that were part of a late 19th century diorama depicting the Franco-Prussian War, to a knife-grinder with a wheel that sets off sparks. Mr. Arstark's particular fascination with toys with movable parts is apparent as he describes their evolution from pull toys, to toys with clockwork mechanisms, (which failed because "they kept running when kids' patience ran out"), to wind-up toys, which ran down in a more timely manner. Battery-operated toys followed. Mrs. Arstark, who was a first-grade teacher, counts several wind-up bears that turn the pages of books as among her favorites.

Mr. Arstark points out that the toys were almost always made for boys; girls were presumably busy playing with dolls. He scoffs at the notion of collecting trains, which were "what most kids got at Christmas." Invariably in good condition, "they all did the same thing: they went around on a track."

Until their move to Windrows, the Arstarks, who have been married for 56 years, lived on Long Island, where their homes included a Roslyn Village house that was on the National Historic Register, and another that they literally had to vacate when it was made into a museum. Besides living in remarkable homes, they travelled a lot, and though he won't mention it, Mrs. Arstark was happy to report that Mr. Arstark's business clients included concerns like the one that did the electrical work at Cape Canaveral, and another that was responsible for the subways in Washington, D.C. Now, she says, life at Windrows, an independent living community, includes "a very lively group — we have fun."

—Ellen Gilbert

EAT AT JOE'S: Toy collector Lester Arstark is particularly fond of this sandwich-board man, which is made of felt, tin, and rubber. *(Photo by Ellen Gilbert)*

TOYS 'R HISTORY: Lester Arstark's collection of antique toys includes bears that read, trapeze artists, a knife grinder, dolls, ducks, soldiers, and more. An exhibit of tin toys from New Jersey toymaker J. Chein and Company is at the Trention City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion (see p. 16).

(Photo by Ellen Gilbert)

Holt Pleased by Obama's Choices For Science Posts

Representative Rush Holt (D-12) recently issued a statement supporting President-Elect Barack Obama's expected nomination of John Holdren, a Harvard physicist, as his science advisor and the nomination of Oregon State University marine biologist Jane Lubchenco as head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"In appointing John Holdren to serve as presidential science advisor and Jane Lubchenco as head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, President-Elect Obama will affirm that science and reason will be valued in the White House. Those who want our nation to take real steps to address climate change and bolster innovation infrastructure are thrilled with this news," Mr. Holt said.

"John Holdren is the best person I can imagine for this job," continued Mr. Holt, "I have worked with Dr. Holdren for two decades on a variety of issues, most recently at a roundtable I hosted with Speaker Pelosi in Princeton, where we committed to invest in the physical sciences and energy research that will ensure our nation's leadership in the 21st century."

"Those who know Jane Lubchenco know she is a most highly respected research scientist and a long-time leader in bringing science to policymakers and the public. I expect her to be an outstanding leader at the helm of NOAA," he remarked.

Scholarships Available To Students in Healthcare

The Joseph E. Enright Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing "health through education," is offering scholarships to students in the central New Jersey area who are pursuing healthcare studies including, but not limited to, nursing, radiology, medicine, and pharmacology.

Each scholarship award is $1,000, and the application deadline is December 31. A short essay describing what the applicant is studying and why the applicant is interested in a healthcare career should accompany each application. Application forms and additional information are available at the Foundation's website, www.josephenrightfoundation.org, or may be requested by calling (908) 464-0277.

The Foundation also sponsors a health lecture series offered to the general public, as well as Continuing Medical Education programs for physicians, nurses, and other health professionals.

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Park Reports

continued from page one

much money to allot to advertising and publicity. Ultimately, $1,000 was set aside for community relations, which would include any such publicity costs. Commission chair Wendy Kaczerski noted that the budget is subject to change as the year progresses.

Friends of Princeton Open Spaces (FOPOS) naturalist Steve Hiltner, who is also a member of the Environmental Commission, reported on the status of Mountain Lakes Preserve over the past year. Major initiatives included clearing invasive shrubs and plants, restoring native habitats, and maintaining and improving trails.

A $7,000 federal Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) grant provided funding for restoring four acres of wetlands at Mountain Lakes, and Mr. Hiltner, Princeton University summer intern Sarah Chambliss, and volunteers worked to plant native species and combat the advances of invasive flora. Princeton Day School has sent a corps of 100 students to the preserve for their community day in early September for the past three years to assist in the habitat preservation effort.

Mr. Hiltner noted that a surprise benefit of the municipal deer control program has been the resurgence of native plants. The combination of invasive plants and deer grazing had proved problematic for the survival of native plants, but with the decrease in the deer population, such flora have had the opportunity to thrive.

"I think that's a very good argument for continuing the deer management program," Township Committee liaison to the Environmental Commission Vicky Bergman noted.

As for the bodies of water at Mountain Lakes, Mr. Hiltner said they had "been through the worst summer ever." Duckweed and algae compromise the aesthetics of the pond, and are caused by the layers of sediment that have settled in the pond over the past century, he said.

"The upper pond used to be seven feet deep, and now it is one foot deep," Mr. Hiltner explained, adding that the vegetation is growing up from the bottom of the pond. Township plans for restoring and strengthening the two dams at Mountain Lakes are in the works, and it is likely that dredging the ponds will also occur at that time.

Elaborating on the workings of Marquand Park, Environmental Commission member Pamela Macholds reported that while the Marquand Park Foundation and the Borough take care of the park maintenance, it might not be worthwhile for it to be formally adopted under an "Adopt-a-Park" program.

Borough Council liaison Barbara Trelstad explained that the program would just formalize the relationship between the Borough and its open spaces, and would not supersede the workings of the Marquand Park Foundation. "It is a precedent. Let's not reinvent any wheels here."

Active recreation was characterized by Ms. Macholds as something that the park does not need, since it would disturb the children playing in the sandbox, the carefully cultivated arboretum, and the overall atmosphere of the space. "Marquand Park is a gem, an oasis," she said.

—Dilshanie Perera

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Harrison Street Park

continued from page one

breaking ground," since it has "taken years to get to that point."

An on-site meeting between the various entities including neighbors, staff, and consultants will occur in early January to finalize the plans, Mr. Hiltner remarked. He lauded neighbor Clifford Zink, who "led an effort to plant portions of the park with native wildflowers" in an envrionmentally-friendly manner, as "one planting utilizes runoff entering the park" and affords "a progression of blooms throughout the summer."

The most recent plans for the Harrison Street Park rehabilitation and the new designs can be found on the Borough's website at www.princetonboro.org.

—Dilshanie Perera

Latin Academy Students Celebrate Saturnalia

Students at the Princeton Latin Academy (K through 8) and the Princeton Science Academy (9 through 12), recently celebrated Saturnalia with music, recitations in Latin, Greek, and English, and candle-lighting.

"Saturnalia is much more than a holiday event," observed headmaster Francesco Perrulli. "It is a celebration of culture and of light in a period of darkness — an illumination of the intellect. Saturnalia demonstrates not a celebration of diversity, but one of universality."

The Princeton Latin Academy and the Princeton Science Academy emphasize study of the classics, ancient history, myths, literature, religions, languages, mathematics, and science, believing that they "furnish the child with those points of reference so crucial for moral, associative, and consequential thinking — a skill not likely to develop without the best content available." The schools are located at Rambling Pines Day Camp, Route 518 just east of Route 31 in Hopewell, N.J. For more information see www.princetonlatinacademy.com.

Rescue

The Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad responded to 53 calls for service last week.

On Saturday, December 13, the Squad responded to a report of a vehicle that had driven off the roadway and into a body of water. Upon the crew's arrival, the driver of the vehicle had self-extricated and was able to swim to shore. The patient's only complaint was hypothermia and she denied any other injuries. The patient was transported to University Medical Center at Princeton (UMCP) for evaluation.

On Sunday, December 14, the Squad was dispatched for a man who was confused and wandering in the street. His neighbor staled that he'd made a reference to falling off his bicycle, but there was no bicycle in the area and he showed no signs of injury. Though aware of his identity and location, the patient was confused as to the date and the circumstances. He was placed on oxygen and rushed to UMCP for evaluation.

In the early morning hours on Wednesday, December 17, a female patient presented herself at the Squad's headquarters complaining of tightness in her chest and of having experienced a pulsating sensation in her left arm that had stopped approximately 15 minutes prior. She was rushed to UMCP for evaluation.

Later that day, the Squad answered the call of a husband whose elderly wife was exhibiting the signs of a stroke. Upon the crew's arrival, the patient was disoriented, slurring her speech, and believed that the year was 1908. During the course of the crew's assessment, it was determined that the patient had consumed three glasses of gin earlier in the morning. The patient was transported to UMCP for evaluation.

The Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad was named "2008 Outstanding Public EMS Agency" by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. For more information on donation or volunteer opportunities, please call (609) 924-3338 or visit www.pfars.org.

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A TIME FOR SMILES: Mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, and hats were collected by Princeton Junior School (PJS) students and placed on the school's "Giving Tree." These gitts of warmth will be donated to less fortunate by HomeFront. PJS students in front of the tree are (from left): Edward Ott, Colin Hoeffner, Jared McOonald, and Oaniel Ordonez.

ANO I'D LIKE...: Santa Claus recently paid a visit to Eden Institute, the Princeton based not-for-profit school serving children with autism. Pictured with Santa is Middle Childhood student Lucas Frede. For more information about Eden visit www.edenservices.org.

Calendar

Wednesday, December 24

Noon and 4 p.m.: *A Christmas Corol*; McCarter Theatre. Also Saturday at 1 and 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 1 and 5:30 p.m.

5:15 p.m.: Annual Christmas Eve Caroling, accompanied by Blawenburg Band; Palmer Square Green. Free.

Thursday, December 25
Christmas Day

Friday, December 26

7:30 and 9:30 p.m.: Gary Delena and Chris Rich; Catch A Rising Star Comedy Club, Hyatt Regency. Also Saturday at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 27

3:30 p.m.: Stories for a Winter's Day; Princeton Public Library.

Sunday, December 28

Noon: The Fifes & Drums of the Old Barracks Concert (Military Music of the 18th Century); Masonic Temple, Front and Barrack Streets, Trenton. For reservations, call (609) 396-1776.

3:30 p.m.: Kenny Woods concert; Princeton Public Library.

4:30 p.m.: Family Coloring Sunday, Princeton Public Library.

5 and 7 p.m.: "The Music of Ben Franklin: The Glass Armonica in Concert"; Old Barracks Museum, 101 Barrack Street, Trenton. For reservations, call (609) 396-1776.

8 p.m.: Central Jersey Dance Society Argentine Tango Dance; Suzanne Patterson Building.

Monday, December 29

7 p.m.: Township Committee; Township Municipal Complex.

8 p.m.: Capitol Steps; Patriots Theater at the War Memorial, Trenton.

Tuesday, DecemBER 240

2 p.m.: Screening of *Wall-E*; Princeton Public Library. Free.

6 and 8 p.m.: The Practitioners of Musick; Old Barracks Museum, 101 Barrack Street, Trenton. For reservations, call (609) 396-1776.

Wednesday, DecemBER 241

1 p.m.: The Fifes & Drums of the Old Barracks Concert (18th Century Military Music); Masonic Temple, Front and Barrack Streets, Trenton. For reservations, call (609) 396-1776.

6 p.m.: *Salute to Vienna*; State Theatre, New Brunswick.

7:30 and 9:30 p.m.: Gary Delena and Chris Rich; Catch A Rising Star Comedy Club, Hyatt Regency. Also Saturday at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

8 p.m.: Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra; Patriots Theater at the War Memorial, Trenton.

Thursday, January 1
New Year's Day

Friday, January 2

7:30 p.m.: New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's "Best of Vienna" concert; Patriots Theater at the War Memorial, Trenton.

Saturday, January 3

3 p.m.: Arts Council of Princeton's Classic Comedy Cavalcade, screening of short films with film historian Bruce Lawton; Solley Theater, Paul Robeson Center for the Arts, 102 Witherspoon Street.

7:45 p.m.: Central Jersey Dance Society California Mix dance; Unitarian Church, 50 Cherry Hill Road.

Monday, January 5
Recycling

Tuesday, January 6

5:30 p.m.: Book Group discussion of Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*, led by Beth Machlan, Ph.D.; Labyrinth Books, 122 Nassau Street.

Thursday, January 8

7 p.m.: Screening of Silvio Soldini's *Days and Clouds* (in Italian with English subtitles); Lawrence Branch, Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville.

8 p.m.: Jazz at the Robeson Center with Ralph Bowen Quartet; Solley Theater, Paul Robeson Center for the Arts, 102 Witherspoon Street.

Friday, January 9

8 p.m.: Princeton University student production of Claudio Monteverdi's opera *The Return of Ulysses*; Richardson Auditorium. Also Saturday at 8 p.m.

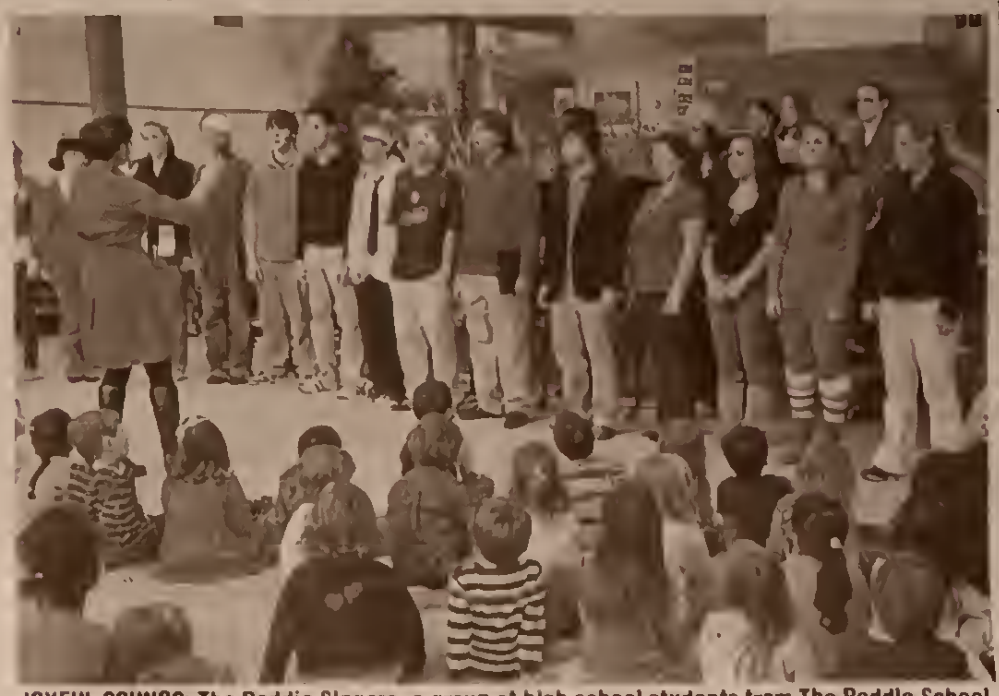
8 p.m.: Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College. Also Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.

8 to 10:15 p.m.: Dance Improv; All Saints' Church, 16 All Saints' Road.

Saturday, January 10

11 a.m.: Environmental Film Festival; Princeton Public Library. Free.

7:30 p.m.: West Windsor Film Series screening of Liev Schreiber's *Everything Is Illuminated*; West Windsor Branch, Mercer County Library, 333 North Post Road, West Windsor.



JOYFUL SOUNOS: The Peddie Singers, a group of high school students from The Peddie School, recently gave a holiday concert at the Princeton Junior School. Audience members and performers alike were reported to be delighted with the experience.

People are not aware of it, but the slaughter of ancient trees goes on in Princeton Township largely because it is done out of sight so that citizens cannot complain. No, these pictures do not depict a lumber camp: these trees, some of them once 70 feet high and three feet in diameter at their base, were recently felled, cut up and carted away from a wooded lot on Bunn Drive. Some 30 to 40 feet of woods has been left along Bunn Drive so that passersby, whether in car, on bicycle, or foot scarcely notice that the woods behind them have been clear-cut. Small fringes of wood have been left between this hollowed out area and the institutions on either side, the Princeton Care Center and the law firm of Mason Griffin and Pierson. No trees have been left at the back of the lot.

One would have thought that it would have been possible to design the building, road ways, paths and necessary parking areas in such a way that a good many of these fine old trees could have been preserved. But no. The owner of the property and powers that be in the Township thought otherwise. Perhaps it would have cost more. And anyway, who's looking?

Just why has this travesty been perpetrated? The reason, it appears, is that Princeton needs still another medical arts building. Are you kidding? With Princeton's hospital leaving town for the other side of Route One in a few years and an ultra modern hospital now being built in Ewing, both of which are designed to provide office space for twice the number of doctors we have in town now, it hardly makes sense to have this facility far out on the north side of town. Who is responsible for this idiocy?

John P. C. Matthews, 15 Poor Farm Road

School Board

continued from page one

The state is *in extremis*, and as they have looked to solve the property tax burden that is suffered by all tax payers because of this, the school budgets are in the first line of attack. We don't want Princeton to be just adequate — we don't want to revert to a mean that incorporates everyone in the state. We want to have local control."

Other topics at the Tuesday meeting included Facilities Committee Chair Mia Cahill's report that it has been about a year since the committee invited the Borough and the Township to make recommendations regarding use of the older section of Valley Road Building. She expressed the hope that "we can all move forward on the issue in January."

The new Princeton High School Dean of Students Diana Lygas has "received numerous referrals" after only four months on the job, according to Personnel Committee Chair Walter Bliss. With a charge to "make sure that no child falls between the cracks in the high school," he said that Ms. Lygas "reaches out and identifies students who appear to have problems that interfere with academic performance," offering counseling to students and outreach to parents. Her case load of about 70 students (she anticipates 100) represents, Mr. Bliss reported, "a diverse array of students, cutting across the entire student population." He added that the dean's larger mission is to "knit together a school community in which all students connect and support each other."

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday January 27, at 8 p.m., at the John Witherspoon Middle School.

—Ellen Gilbert

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Mailbox

Thanks and Season's Greetings Extended To All of Mercer County's RSVP Volunteers

To the Editor:

Please join us in wishing a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Season's Greetings, Happy New Year and all the best in 2009 to the hundreds of RSVP Volunteers in Mercer County. RSVP is short for the Federally-funded Senior Corps initiative, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Through RSVP more than 400 hundred Mercer County residents 55 or older refuse to sit out their golden years and instead work tirelessly at 30 to 40 sites throughout the County giving back to our community in so many ways. Recording services, including specialized closed circuit radio broadcasts for the blind and visually impaired. Reading programs and hook gifts for children. Crisis Intervention Hotlines and Preventative Reassurance calls. Nutrition services at senior service sites or on the road through Meals on Wheels. Hospice care and comfort services at senior day or residential centers including the County Geriatric Center. Transportation and companionship services. Traditional Volunteer services at local hospitals. Cultural and educational programs and soon, mentoring services.

By the last annual count, our senior Volunteers gave back in excess of 45,000 hours in a year, an enormous gift to our community. What next might our super seniors do? Only our — or their — imaginations can limit their contribution!

So we ask you — and all Mercer County as well — to help us say Thank You! and Best of the Season! to these committed warriors who turn their gray ever green, day in and day out, for our community.

Best to our senior Volunteers in 2009 and beyond!

Thank you !

DONALD COX
Chair, RSVP Advisory Council
ELEANOR LETCHER
Executive Director, CONTACT of Mercer County,
RSVP sponsor agency
HUGH J. ADAMS
RSVP Director

Dog Owner Questions Why Leashed Dogs Are Prohibited in Spruce Circle Park

To the Editor:

Why are leashed, well behaved dogs prohibited in Princeton Borough parks?

I recently made the mistake of reporting that my dog (leashed) had been bitten by another dog (unleashed) while I was walking with him through Spruce Circle Park.

I was issued a ticket for having a dog in the park. When I asked if I could send a check as restitution (as one might for a traffic ticket), I was told that since there is no set fine for this offense a court appearance would be required. I had to take a day off from work (I commute to New York) and spent most of an afternoon in court, which culminated in my being fined $120. The owner of the other dog was fined $360. While I was there I witnessed a woman pleading guilty to a D.U.I. Her fine was $300.

Am I crazy, or is something not quite right here?

JEREMY STEELE
Princeton Avenue

Christmas Bazaar at St. Paul's School Raised $500 to Fight Cystic Fibrosis

To the Editor:

The fifth grade students of St. Paul's School have raised $500 for Cystic Fibrosis research this month through the sale of bears, wristbands, and holiday cards.

The students used their Christmas Bazaar to sell gifts to benefit the children afflicted with Cystic Fibrosis, the number one fatal genetic disease. The students learned about genetic disease, and used their savings to contribute to the research effort. The money will make a difference in the longevity of the lives of children suffering with Cystic Fibrosis.

In these challenging economic times, the fifth grade students at St. Paul's School have put the needs of children who have to work to take each breath above their own holiday gift lists. They have given their talents and their love to provide hope for children who reach the middle of their lives at age 15.

With this kind of commitment from students, we are confident that we will be able to write a letter someday announcing an effective treatment or cure for Cystic Fibrosis.

We are a fortunate community to have such fine future leaders.

MARY FUREY GERARD
Talbot Lane
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Thanks Expressed to the Many Contributors To Ivy Inn's 2008 Toys for Tots Campaign

To the Editor:

Recently the Ivy Inn, in association with members of the United States Marine Corps, held its second annual Toys for Tots drive. Toys for Tots is a national campaign that collects toys for families of children less fortunate than ours. This year we were able to collect approximately $2,500 worth of toys for these children. In addition to the toys, we were able to raise about $800 in cash to go toward even more toys. These are impressive figures alone, not to mention the current economic climate affecting most everyone. I wanted to take a moment to thank our loyal customers who took their time and gave of themselves to make a difference in the Christmases of our less fortunate youth. I especially want to thank one customer in particular who went above and beyond — Jason G. In the memory of his grandparents, Norman and Etta Barr, he showed us graciously what giving is all about. So, on behalf of the Ivy Inn and those members of the U.S. Marine Corps involved, a resounding Thank You and Merry Christmas.

RICHARD RYAN
Ivy Inn

Candlelit Mile on Witherspoon Street Illuminated Support for Womanspace

To the Editor:

On Sunday, December 14 at dusk, the center of our community was alive with light in support of Womanspace's Communities of Light, which benefits victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

This year for the first time the luminaries — candles in paper bags — lined the length of Witherspoon Street connecting our community from Nassau Street in the Borough to Valley Road in Township.

Many people deserve warm thanks for the beauty of the lights and the support for Womanspace. They include volunteers from the Library, the Arts Council, the Hospital, First Baptist Church, and the staff of Princeton Township and other friends of Womanspace. And thank you to the two women with the shopping bags full of foods, stopping to light some of the candles when they saw what we were doing. They showed so much understanding and support through that little gesture. It's what we are all about.

We also thank our corporate sponsors, Verizon, Bristol-Myers Squibb, PNC Bank, the Jon S. Corzine Foundation, Compass Healthcare, J. Knipper & Co, The Times, East Windsor Sign-A-Rama, McCaffrey's, Janssen, Lynn McDougall, Esq., and Mason, Griffin & Pierson; plus our local sponsors, Princeton Township PBA, J. Robert Hillier FAIA, First Baptist Church, Corner House, Holsome Teas, Gloria Nielsen Realtors, Ferry House, Town Topics, Decked, Princeton Mattress, Green Design, A Little Taste of Cuba, Lisa Jones, Village Silver, Godfrey Fitzgerald, House of Cupcakes, Shop The World, Small World, J. McLaughlin, Mandalay, The Place To Bead, La Mezzaluna, Community Liquors, Chez Alice, Zorba's, Walking Company, Lululemon Athletica, and Iona's Rosticceria.

On behalf of Womanspace and the many individuals it serves, we want to express sincere appreciation to everyone who made December 14 a beautiful evening whose glow reminds us at this season of the year that Peace Begins at Home. To see photos and to learn more about Womanspace, please visit our website, www.Womanspace.org.

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Board members of Womanspace

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John Muir

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BOOK REVIEW

A Gift for Fancy: Charles Dickens and the Haunting of Christmas Eve

Do we ever really outgrow Christmas? As long as kids and Christmas trees and songs old and new are around, it's hard not to leel llashes of the old childhood fever, most of all on Christmas Eve. "The Night Before Christmas" is the first poem I knew by heart, but those weren't "vislons ol sugarplums" dancing in my head. The Christmas Eve excitement was never that specilic. What made the night special was something like the undefined mass of anticipation and wonderment Kate Bush has in mind when she sings "Don't let the mystery go" in her Christmas song from 1980, "December Will Be Magic Again." For me, it's not a problem; the mystery may be more subtle now than it was when I was nine, but it's still there, whether I'm listening to Berlioz's *L'Enfonce du Christ* or to Imperlectly sung versions of "Silent Night" or reading *A Christmos Corol* or watching either the 1938 or the 19S1 movie version.

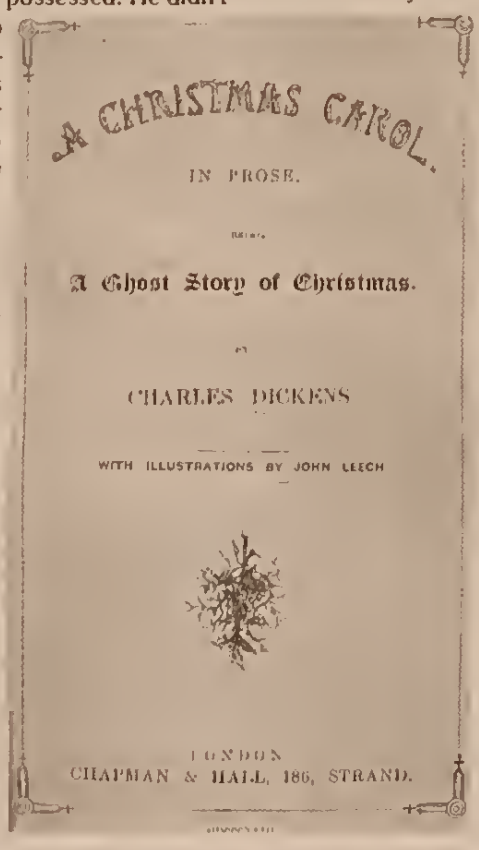
Sky Gazing

If I still find mysell gazing expectantly out the window when everyone else is asleep on Christmas Eve, it's not from force ol childhood habit. I'm not looking for anything dramatic, nothing like Dickens's ghostly travesty ol the three wise men haunting the sky over London with Scrooge in tow. Nor am I looking to feel any nostalgia lor the inlectious childhood fantasy ol an insanely benelicent white-bearded white man soaring through the sky in a sleigh drawn by a team of reindeer. It's one thing to believe in Santa Claus il you're lucky enough to grow up in a house with a proper chimney. But consider the hreathtaking optimism ol a child whose most exciting, suspenseful, and mysterions Christmas Eves were spent in a building where the chimney was a stovepipe that even Plastic Man would have been challenged by. There's a "suspension of dishelief" beyond anything Dickens asks of us in his Christmas fable.

The Demon Muse

In the 165 years since it was published on December 19, 1843, A Christmos Carol has been so thoroughly absorbed into the media of the season it celebrates that it may be at once the best known and least actually read story in the English language. Except for some stock phrases, the peculiar quality of the writing that delivered the tale to the world — the essence of Dickens, the true poet of Christmas Eve, the "man who invented Christmas" according to a new book with that title — has been mostly ignored by the multitudes who revel in the holiday he helped put on the map.

The thing to keep in mind about Dickens is that he was a writer possessed. He didn't sit down simply to write a moral tale extolling the Christmas spirit. Among other things, he needed to make money to pay oll a debt, and while he clearly intended to use the occasion to spread good will, attack social injustice, and expose such monstrosities as poor laws, workhouses, and treadmills, he was no less devoted to enjoying another tryst with his demon muse. He had neither time nor inclination lor a performance on the grand scale; in order to have the book ready for the Christmas season, it had to be written in a matter of months. His muse wasn't all demon, of course: it could take the lorm of a passionate advocate for the poor, especially the children of the poor; it was also an actor and a puppeteer, not to mention a literary libertine who could get drunk on a metaphor and had a perverse desire to, like *the fat boy in Pickwick Papers*, make "your flesh creep" and then to set you sobbing a paragraph later.


A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

IN PROSE.

A Ghost Story of Christmas.

CHARLES DICKENS

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In the brief introduction to his "Ghostly little book," Dickens seems to be evoking something not unlike the "mystery" Kate Bush tells us not to let go ol; his expressed wish is to raise "the Ghost of an idea" that will "pleasantly" haunt the houses ol his readers. But what an opening. ft's not exactly a bedtime story; instead of "Once upon a time," you get death. "Marley was dead: to begin with. There was no doubt whatever about that .... Old Marley was dead as a doornail."

It's not long, however, before the Dickens who never outgrew Christmas invades the character of Bob Cratchit, as Scrooge's clerk escapes from the office, goes "down a slide on Cornhill, at the end of a lane of boys, twenty times, in honour of its being Christmas Eve," and then runs "home to Camden Town as hard as he could pelt, to play at blindman's-bufl." Dickens grew up in the same neighborhood, so you have to believe that he himself slid down the slide and ran the homeward run and couldn't resist having this beaten but unbowed clerk do the same. In the next paragraph, where his mission is to describe Scrooge's dreary domicile, Dickens can't resist *a little more fun, the* child muse inspiring him to write of that "gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and lorgotten the way out again." A paragraph later he sneaks in a reference to his art when he tells us that Scrooge, who is about to see his old business partner Marley's lace in a door-knocker, "had as little ol what is called fancy about him as any man in the City of London."

Needless to say, Dickens, at 31, in full flight, had a plentilul gift lor "fancying."

Dark vs. Light

I have to admit having a delinite preference lor the dark, crazed aspect of the tale, the same way I prefer the hushed enigmatic aura of Christmas Eve to the daylit doings on Christmas morning. As Scrooge becomes happily Christmasized, things do inevitably get, as will happen with Dickens, a bit sticky. Tiny Tim's cry ol "God Bless Us, Every One!" doesn't do nearly as much for me as Scrooge's response when Marley's ghost asks him, "Why do you doubt your senses?" and Scrooge looks right at him and says, "Because...a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats. You may be an undigested bit ol beel, a blot ol mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more ol gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!'"

Gravy and the grave! — a true Dickensian recipe. Readers can be thankful not only lor the saving of Scrooge's soul, but for the word-drunk poet in Dickens, who in spite of his better nature loved his ghosts and never let go of the mystery.

Further Readings, Viewings

Les Standiford's *The Mon Who Invented Christmos: How Chorles Dickens's A Christmos Carol Rescued His Coreer and Revived Our Holidoy Spirits* is out this year from Crown. Also worth looking at is Michael Patrick Hearn's *The Annotated Christmas Carol: a Christmas Carol in Prose/by Charles Dickens* (Norton 2004). As for Kate Bush, who is as English as Christmas, cheddar cheese, and Dickens, the genies ol YouTube have provided at least six dilferent versions of her own Christmas carol, "December Will be Magic Again," in which she manages to get stars, lovers, mistletoe, snowfall, Saint Nicholas, Bing Crosby, and Oscar Wilde all into the same song.

—Stuart Mitchner

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NEW DRUG TREATS AMD

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a major cause ol blindness among the elderly. The disease occurs as a result ol leakage by abnormal blood vessels in the retina. This leakage eventually leads to damage to the portion ol the eye that is responsible for central vision. Recently, however, the FDA approved ranibizumab (Lucentis) for the treatment of the so-called "wet" form ol macular degeneration. About 10% ol patients who suffer lrom macular degeneration have wet AMD. According to clinical tests, a monthly dose ol ranibizumab resulted in the ability ol nearly 9S% of users to maintain their vision after one year compared with 60% of non-users. Another (much less expensive) drug, Avastatin, is also prescribed "off label" to treat AMD.

The most notable symptom ol macular degeneration is blurry or distorted vision. Dilliculty reading, doing close work, or driving may also be noticed. Whether or not you expenence a vision problem, you can protect your vision by having routine eye exams. Please call MONTGOMERY EYE CARE at 609-279-000S to schedule an appointment. We use the most advanced technology to diagnose vision problems in their early stages, when treatment is most successful. Our practice is located at Montgomery Center at 1325 Rt. 206. Office hours are Mon 10-8; Tues 10-S; Wed and Thurs 10-7; Fri 10-6; and Sat 9-3.

P.S. In some cases, macular degeneration may also be treated with lasers.

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"THREE MOUNTAINS": Photographer David Miller describes this image from his exhibit "Northern Light" as "mountain ranges standing sharply against a dark sea" with "wispy, almost butterfly-like clouds flying across the sky." His work can be seen in a joint exhibit with Edward Greenblat at Gallery 14 in Hopewell. The exhibit will open on January 2 from 6 to 9 p.m.

"TOBY": Edward Greenblat's photographic portrait of a recovered cancer victim is among the works illustrating his theme in "Sanctuary," which is one half of a joint exhibit with David Miller opening January 2 from 6 to 9 at Gallery 14 in Hopewell. The public can meet the photographers on January 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Art

Gallery 14 to Begin 2009 With Greenblat and Miller

Gallery 14 at 14 Mercer Street in Hopewell is hosting a joint exhibit of work by member photographers Edward F. Greenblat and David Miller that will open on January 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. The public can meet the photographers on January 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

In "Sanctuary," Edward Greenblat explores the idea of "anything that provides comfort and security" for the subjects of his portraits, whether it be "a place, a memory, an activity, a person." Each photograph will be accompanied by the subjects' own thoughts regarding their respective sanctuaries.

The results are extremely varied, including special soothing places, a memorial to a lost beloved, an altar to love of the natural world, boating and fishing with one's mates, a train set, bathing, and watching Dr. Phil. Mr. Greenblat regards all of these as portraits, unified by the common theme. For example, Toby, a recovered cancer victim, is seen wearing a special jacket in a room designed by her with special color and lighting. Ed, a baker and restaurateur, often works 12 hour/six day weeks, and finds his relaxation on his boat fishing with friends. Pamela is seen sharing the memories that have sustained her over difficult times. Robert is seen with the train set that he dreamed of as a youngster. Dee, another cancer survivor, is seen surrounded by beautiful magnolias a year after she was told that she might not live the year.

Mr. Greenblat's primary photographic interest is people — who they are, what they do. This is reflected by his recent shows at Gallery 14 in which he directed his camera at the Princeton Fire Department, and the dancers and students of the American Repertory Dance Company. Besides being a photographer for Town Topics, he also covers the Princeton Fire Department and First Aid and Rescue Squad, and is a founding member of Gallery 14 and the Princeton Photography Club.

David H. Miller's exhibit, "Northern Light," in the Small Gallery, is concerned with the special qualities of the light in the northern hemisphere and its unusual effects on the landscape. In this exhibit he presents part of his continuing series of black and white infrared landscapes, these being from the Norwegian Arctic islands of Svalbard, in Norway, and Iceland during the Arctic summer. According to the photographer, "In these land and seascapes the mountains have a new crispness and definition, for the trees that usually photograph as dark shapes are here light and white, delineating the hills and valleys of the fjords and mountain ranges. The clouds are another key element in these compositions as well, for they are wispy and light with a presence that the eye does not normally notice. But here they are an important part of the landscape illuminated by the northern light." Water figures prominently in numerous photographs, "most often as a dark and defining line." An exception is his *Briksdalen Waterfall*, which "reminds one of Yosemite but with mountains accented by the thick cover of white trees and a brilliant waterfall, rather than by the line of water seen in his seascapes."

Mr. Miller is a founding member of Gallery 14 and its current president. His work and travel has taken him to distant parts of the globe, where he has concentrated on street portraits and his continuing infrared series of transformative visions of common place scenes.

Tin Toy Authority Jaffe To Visit Trenton Museum

Noted tin toy authority Alan Jaffe will speak at 2 p.m. January 11 at Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum, in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition "A Toy Story: Seven Decades of J. Chein and Company, New Jersey Toymaker." A former newspaper reporter, editor and contributor to Inside Collector, an antiques and collectibles magazine, Mr. Jaffe, has collected antique toys and advertising characters since the early 1980s. Copies of his book *J. Chein & Co., A Collector's Guide to an American Toymaker* (Schiller Publishing Ltd., 1997) will be available at Molly's, the Shop at Ellarslie, after the talk. The exhibit will continue through March 22. Ellarslie Mansion is in Cadwalader Park.

Beginning in 1903 and lasting into the 1970s, the J. Chein and Co. began churning out millions of *tin lithographed mechanical toys*, many featuring the visages of the 20th centuries' most beloved cartoon characters. These toys have become iconic collectibles sought after at auction the world over. The never-before exhibited collection includes contributions from Chein family members exhibiting their personal collections, which include their most memorable toys, accompanied by pieces from the extensive collection of Georgia Marsh, the world's leading collector of Chein Toys.

A working journalist for 30 years, Mr. Jaffe spent nine years with the Courier-Post as an editor and columnist on antiques and collectibles, and another eight years as a news editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer. Currently he is public relations manager for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, which produces the Philadelphia Flower Show. He also writes a column on historic building preservation for PlanPhilly, a website based at the University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife, BJ, live in Center City Philadelphia, in a 19th-century home filled with antiques, including vintage toys.

For additional information, visit the museum website at www.ellarslie.org or call (609) 989-3632. Visitors to the Museum should enter Cadwalader Park at the intersection of Parkside Ave. and Bellevue Avenue, (between E. State and Stuyvesant Streets) and follow the drive through the Park to the Museum.

The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion is owned by the City of Trenton, Douglas H. Palmer, mayor, and maintained and operated by the Department of Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture, Division of Culture. This program is made possible in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the *Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the New Jersey State Council* on the Arts/Department of State, A Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts. All programs and additional support provided by The Trenton Museum Society.

POPEYE AT ELLARSLIE: This is one of the toys on display in "A Toy Story: Seven Decades of J. Chein and Company, New Jersey Toymaker," which is at Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum, through March 22. Tin toy authority Alan Jaffe will speak in conjunction with the exhibition at 2 p.m. January 11.

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Gallery at Chapin Plans "Images: Lost and Found"

The Gallery at Chapin will feature the mixed media collages of Flemington artist Ann Calandro and Hopewell resident Valerie Young in a joint exhibit entitled "Images: Lost and Found" from January 3 through January 30, with a reception for the artists on Wednesday, January 7, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Although Ann Calandro always wanted to be an artist, it wasn't until 2004 when she made a few mixed media collage bookmarks that she discovered that collage was "her" medium. Incorporating drawing, painting, design, and photography, she mixes the real and the imaginary, her mission to create an "enchanted reality" for the viewer. Her influences include Henri Rousseau, Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Henri Matisse, David Hockney, Pierre Bonnard, Charles Sheeler, and Alice Hoffman. Her work has been shown in New Hope, New Brunswick, Princeton, New York and in private collections in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Missouri, Texas, and California.

Valerie Young's artwork reflects her eye for detail and history. She enjoys recovering and transforming the cast-off possessions of 20th- century America. By combining diverse objects in sculpture, she tries to harness the energy represented by the transient tastes and changing technologies of a society that grows bored easily. She was initially inspired by the African tradition of "Spirit" jugs that incorporated objects belonging to a deceased family member into a shrine. The tradition was translated into a craft for Victorian women, who glued small household objects onto jugs and painted them gold. Ms. Young's work has included: near life-sized figures based on store mannequins and dress molds; old metal suitcases with interior travelogues; and '50s Bakelite TV housings containing 3D depictions of period shows whose characters break through the screen into the view's world. Her creations have been exhibited in galleries in New York, Princeton, Lambertville and Hopewell.

In addition to the artist reception, the exhibit can be viewed during school hours or by appointment by calling (609) 924-7206. Chapin School is located at 4101 Princeton Pike, Princeton.

"HARMONICA VIRGINS": This assemblage by Valerie Young can be seen in "Images: Lost and Found," a joint exhibit at The Gallery at Chapin with Ann Calandro. The show will run from January 3 through January 30, with a reception for the artists on Wednesday, January 7, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"RAIN AND KISSES": Ann Calandro's collage is among her works on view in "Images: Lost and Found," from January 3 through January 30 at The Gallery at Chapin. Also on view will be work by Valerie Young. A reception for the artists is planned for Wednesday, January 7, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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Area Exhibits

The Arts Council of Princeton will begin the new year with "Beyond the Document: Color Field Photography," which will feature recent work by six contemporary photographers and run from January 12 to April 4 in the Peg and Frank Taplin Gallery. In the lower level, the faculty spotlight will be on photographer Bruce Berenson.

ARTWORKS on Stockton Street in Trenton is hosting its final exhibit of the year, "Old's Cool: An Assemblage of Assemblage Artists," curated by Glenn Moore, through December 27.

The Bernstein Gallery at the Woodrow Wilson School will be presenting "Imagined Landscapes," photographs by Ernestine Ruben, through February 13.

Brodsky Center Gallery, The Heldrich, 10 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, is presenting "Sacred Spaces," an exhibition of 80 photographs by Mary Cross, which will run through January 4. The subjects are wall paintings and mosaics found in ancient churches, monasteries, and mosques located in Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey.

Bucks County Gallery of Fine Art (formerly Howard Gallery) at 77 West Bridge St. in New Hope, Pa., is presenting an exhibit featuring oil paintings by Annapolis Maryland Artist Christine Graele Drewyer through December 31.

The Coryell Gallery at 8 Coryell Street in Lambertville is presenting a special holiday exhibition of the work of Joanne S. Scott and George Van Hook through January 11.

The D&R Greenway Land Trust at One Preservation Place in Princeton is presenting "A Brush With Nature," an exhibition featuring works by 50 members of The Garden State Watercolor Society, which will run through January 9 in D&R Greenway's Marie L. Matthews Gallery. The show is free and open to the public during business days, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Firestone Library on the Princeton University campus is presenting, "Egypt Unveiled: The Mission of Napoleon's Savants" in the main gallery through Sunday, May 10. "Sketching Their Characters: 150 Years of Political Cartoons From Andrew Jackson to George H.W. Bush" will be in the Milberg Gallery until Sunday, January 4.

The Gallery at Chapin will be presenting "Images: Lost and Found," a joint exhibit featuring Ann Calandro and Valerie Young from January 3 through 30, with a reception on Wednesday, January 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. For further information, call (609) 924-7206.

Gallery 14 in Hopewell will present a joint exhibit of work by member photographers Edward F. Greenblat ("Sanctuary") and David Miller ("Northern Light"). The exhibit opening is set for January 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. Meet the Photographers on January 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Grounds for Sculpture will be featuring the photography of Amanda Means in the Toad Hall Shop & Gallery from January 10 through April 5. A public reception will be held on Saturday, January 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. "A Twist of Art" featuring William Smith is on view through December 31. Three exhibitions of contemporary sculpture are open to the public through April 26: "Inspired Visions," exhibiting the work of Allan Houser, "Visions of the Mind," displaying sculptures by Michael Naranjo, and the International Sculpture Center's 2008 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards. New Additions Outdoors in the sculpture park include works by Carol Feuerman, Mike Gyampo, Gloria Vanderbilt and Autin Dean Wright. For more information, visit www.groundsforsculpture.org.

The Historical Society of Princeton, located in Bainbridge House at 158 Nassau Street in Princeton, is presenting "Stand Up, Speak Out: Princeton's Citizens Find Their Voice," through July 5. For more information, call (609) 921-6748 or visit www.princetonhistory.org.

The James A. Michener Art Museum at 138 South Pine Street in Doylestown is presenting "Saving Face: Portraits from the Collection of Robert Infarinato," through March 15. The exhibit features portraits of celebrities, including Marilyn Monroe, Matisse, and Picasso, by photographers such as Ansel Adams, Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and Man Ray. An exhibition of welded bronze sculptures by Philadelphia artist Barry Parker will be on display as part of the ongoing Outdoor Sculpture Program through March 1. "Shifting Ground: Contemporary Landscapes by Paula Chamlee, Alan Goldstein and Paul Matthews," will be on view in the Wachovia Gallery through March 1.

The last show before the New Hope branch of the Michener permanently closes is "Claus Mroczynski: Sacred Places of the Southwest," which includes 49 black and white photographs of Native American ruins and Southwest landscapes. The exhibition is on view in the Della Penna Gallery through February 1.

The Jane Vorhees Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick is presenting "Inspired by Literature: Art and Fine Books," through July 5; "Performing the Archive: Collective Actions in the 1970s-80s," through April 12; and "The Appointing Gesture: The Worlds and Images of Dmitry Prigov," through January 18. The Zimmerli is located at 71 Hamilton Street on the College Avenue campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Mariboe Gallery and The Community Arts Partnership at the Peddie School (CAPPS) in Hightstown will be presenting an exhibition of photographs by José Ruiz and Nick Guilbert, through January 3.

Mercer County Library, Lawrence Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville, is presenting "Voices for the Marsh 2008-09," a juried photography exhibit, through January 5. The show celebrates the plants, wildlife, habitats, and vistas found at the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh.

Morven Museum & Garden is presenting "Picturing Princeton 1783: The Nation's Capital" through January 11. For more information, call Morven at (609) 924-8144, ext. 106. Free parking is available.

The New Jersey State Museum at 205 West State Street in Trenton will host the 2008 New Jersey Arts Annual Crafts juried exhibition, "Transformations," through March 15.

The Present Day Club at 72 Stockton Street in Princeton will be presenting "Coastal Moods," an exhibit of acrylic and watercolor paintings by Kate Leigh Cutler (formerly Katie Bogle) through December 31. The Club is open weekdays except Wednesday from 10 to 4 p.m.

The Princeton Jewish Center is showing a new collection of color photographs by Rabbi Joshua Eli Plaut.

The Princeton University Art Museum is presenting "Jasper Johns: Light Bulb," through January 4; "Frank Gehry: On Line," through January 4; and "Félix Candela: Engineer, Builder, Structural Artist," through February 22. "Body Memory," which features 20th- and 21st-century works of art that focus on the body as subject, medium, or expressive device, will run through January 4.

Riverrun Gallery at The Laceworks, 287 South Main Street, Lambertville, will be presenting "Recent Paintings by Sven Widen and Lizzi Schippert" through January 5.

The Schotland Gallery, 123 Main Street, in Flemington is presenting photographer Robert S. Schotland's "Spiritual Splendor of Indochina" through January 17. On December 24, there will be gallery hours from 1 to 6 p.m. and thereafter by appointment.

The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion is hosting an exhibit of works from New Jersey toymaker, J. Chein and Company through March 22. Noted tin toy authority Alan Jaffe will speak at 2 p.m. on January 11.

The University Medical Center at Princeton is presenting an exhibit featuring the watercolors of Karen Bannister and Alice Warshaw, which will run through January 14. This exhibit may be viewed daily in the University Medical Center Dining Room from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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House Calls: Cold and Drafty

Q I feel cold air currents blowing into parts of my house. How do I find out the source of the problem and make my house feel more comfortable?

A In winter, the chilly air is an unwelcome visitor to our cozy homes. Walking from room to room, we may suddenly feel a cold draft as if a window is open even though all are shut tight. One way to figure out where the air is getting in is to do a home energy audit.

Energy audits will help uncover problems that, when fixed, will certainly make you feel more comfortable and could save you energy and money. By identifying precisely where your house is losing energy and by sealing those areas, you could get great results. You may do a simple audit yourself, or hire a professional to conduct a more thorough audit using more sophisticated equipment.

If you decide to perform your own audit, start by walking through your house and making a list of the places where you feel air leaks. In addition to the window and exterior door frames, look at electrical outlets, switch plates, baseboards, fireplace dampers and attic hatches. Look for gaps around pipes and wires as well as your mailbox slot. In each location, if a leak exists, check to see if the caulking and weather stripping seem properly applied with no gaps or cracks.

Check your windows and doors. If you can rattle them, or see daylight around the frame, there is probably an air leak. If you have storm windows separate from your window assembly, check to see that the storms fit properly and are not cracked. Storm windows can be replaced, but by upgrading to an entirely new assembly using energy efficient windows, you'll probably get better results.

After your self-guided audit, you may decide to hire a professional like us to arrange for a more detailed analysis. An energy auditor will likely choose from a variety of techniques and equipment to determine the energy efficiency of your home. One common diagnostic procedure is a blower door test which measures the air tightness of your house. A blower door is a powerful fan that pulls air out of the house, lowering the air pressure inside. The higher outside air pressure then flows into the house through all the unsealed cracks and openings and is easily discovered by the auditor. The auditor, using a smoke pencil, can then figure out where and how much air is leaking.

Auditors will also use a thermal infrared camera (thermography) to identify hard-to-detect areas of air and energy leakage. By taking a snapshot or thermogram of a wall or ceiling, an auditor can reveal heat variations showing the relative effectiveness of insulation in the wall or roof construction. You will actually see a snapshot with big black areas showing missing insulation inside your walls! Aside from damaged or missing insulation, you might also see areas of improper caulking, incorrectly installed materials, gaps in construction framing, mold and water damage. Thermography is commonly used in conjunction with the blower door test because the blower door exaggerates air that leaks through defects in a building's shell.

Whether you decide to go it alone or hire a professional, a home energy audit is an effective first step toward creating a more comfortable, energy efficient home.

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The Spencers, Illusionists, At McCarter Next Month

One of the most sought after illusion teams in the world, the Spencers — husband and wife Kevin and Cindy Spencer — will bring their show, *The Spencers: Theatre Of Illusion*, to McCarter Theatre on January 30 at 8 p.m.

The only artists in history to be named Performing Arts Entertainers of the Year for a record-breaking six consecutive years, the Spencers have twice been named America's Best Entertainers by CA Magazine. They have baffled and entertained millions of people in venues across America and around the world, redefining the art of illusion in the process.

In 2003 the Spencers made sports history when they "vanished" the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup as a kickoff to the NHL All-Star Weekend in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They later make the cup reappear, along with Hockey Hall of Fame legend Larry Robinson. Three years later they made *Audio Adrenoline*, contemporary Christian music artists, appear magically before a cheering audience of 8,000 fans.

With one of the largest touring illusion companies in the United States, the Spencers transport several tons of state-of-the-art illusions and special effects from city to city. They work with some of the industry's leading inventors and creators to incorporate original illusions into their production. In *Theatre Of Illusion* people levitate, walk through walls, vanish, and reappear. In one illusion, the entire audience is asked to participate in an interactive mind reading experience.

"The Spencers thrilled the audience and left people scratching their heads with their high-energy brand of magic, illusion, and showmanship," said the Bergen (N.J.) Record.

Through their television and live appearances, the Spencers have cultivated a network of fans around the world. They have performed for sold out audiences throughout the U.S., Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mexico, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia.

For more information on the Spencers, visit www.SpencersMagic.com.

Arts Council to Present Classics of Film Comedy

The Arts Council will present its ninth annual Classic Comedy Cavalcade, an afternoon of comedy film classics, on Saturday, January 3 at 3 p.m. at the Paul Robeson Center for the Arts, 102 Witherspoon Street. The short comedies will be screened from motion picture film, as they were originally presented.

The movies, which will appeal to all ages, will include a mix of animated cartoons and short films featuring Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, and Buster Keaton.

Film historian and archivist Bruce Lawton will introduce the films and provide "behind the scenes" information about the movies and the artists. He will also take questions from the audience following the screening. The program will last approximately 90 minutes.

Mr. Lawton fell in love with silent and classic comedies as a child. A motion picture and video specialist, he now presents silent film series at festivals and schools across the country. For the past 15 years he has co-produced The Silent Clowns Film Series at The New York Historical Society in New York City. He has produced and consulted on numerous documentaries and assisted in the restoration of Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* and Buster Keaton's *The* Comeromon, among other classic films.

Mr. Lawton is always amazed at how the early comedy films immediately engage the children in the audience. "It's an active, not a passive, kind of engagement," he said. "A lot of the elements of the humor are there, but you have to add what's missing from your imagination — the color, the sound, the dialogue." Even his film projectors often attract the attention of young audience members, many of whom have never before seen any kind of projection equipment except that used for video presentations.

Admission to the program will be $6 at the door or $5 for Arts Council members. Children under 5 are free.

For more information, call (609) 924-8777 or visit www.artscouncilofprinceton.org.

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MASTER MAGICIANS: Kevin and Cindy Spencer will bring their spectacular production, "The Spencers: Theatre Of Illusion" to McCarter Theatre for one night only, January 30 at 8 p.m. The husband and wife team are the only artists in history to have been named Performing Arts Entertainers of the Year for six consecutive years. For tickets, call (609) 258-6500.

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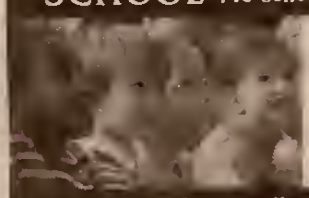

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Library to Host Festival Of Environmental Films

Documentaries, talks, and workshops about damage to the natural world and possibilities for recovery are the major themes of the third annual Princeton Environmental Film Festival, taking place January 2 to 11 at the Princeton Public Library.

"It's not your typical environmental film festival," said Susan Conlon, the library's Teen Services Librarian and coordinator of the event. "We all make choices, and this is about the connections between how we live and what we do. It's about everybody's role in the environment."

The ten-day festival will feature screenings of 19 films on subjects ranging from the devastating effect plastics have had on the oceans to the exploitation of sharks in marine reserves. Green building, the garbage business, the world water crisis, organic farming, and a profile of a famous herbalist are among the topics covered. Eight filmmakers will be featured in post-screening discussions.

Workshops, talks and panel discussions will cover school gardens, the greening of universities, farm to school initiatives, "garblogging" about trash and recycling, and the greening of businesses and libraries, among other topics.

Speakers will include award-winning author Elizabeth Royte, author of *How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It*. Mercer County Horticulturist Barbara Bromley and local organic garden advocate Dorothy Mullen will present separate programs focusing on home vegetable gardens. Martin Johnson of Trenton-based Isles will discuss the organization's Center for Energy and Environmental Training and its renovation of a factory building. Wendy Benchley, board member of the Environmental Defense Fund, will join Stan Waterman of the Shark Research Institute in a program titled "Sharks: 35 Years After *Jaws*." Members of the science and media group Climate Central, including scientists Berrien Moore and Heidi Cullen, will discuss the challenges of providing objective information about climate change. Kevin Lyons of Rutgers University will discuss the university's green buying initiatives.

For a full schedule of the 35 festival events, visit www.princetonlibrary.org/peff.

FINAL WEEK: The veteran Irish actor Dermot Crowley, left, as Ebenezer Scrooge, lectures James Ludwig as Bob Cratchit in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," now completing its three-week run at McCarter Theatre. A seasonal tradition at McCarter, the popular show is being directed by Michael Unger for the 9th consecutive year, but stars Mr. Crowley for the first time. Matthew Kuenne of Princeton plays Tiny Tim. Six performances remain — today at noon and 4 p.m.; Saturday, December 27 at 1 and 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, December 28 at 1 and 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available from McCarter's ticket office at (609) 258-2787 or online at www.mccarter.org.

(Photo by J. Charles Erickson)

SHAKESPEARE AT PDS: It was "comedy tonight" when Princeton Day School students in grades five through eight recently presented William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for family, friends, and fans in the school's McAneny Theater. The production marked the first time PDS Middle School students performed Shakespeare as their fall play, said Deb Sugarman, a Middle School drama teacher. The cast featured, from left, Rory Finnegan of Flemington as Titania and Austin Jacobson of Princeton as Nick Bottom. The students in the cast had to commit to a rehearsal schedule of two-hour practices four days a week for eight weeks. In addition to memorizing their lines, the student actors gained self-confidence and a new perspective. "They got to know more about themselves and began to see their classmates in a new light," said Ms. Sugarman.

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• Concert to Celebrate Bill Scheide's 95th Birthday • 8 pm, January 23
• Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra • 7:30 pm, January 24
• Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey • 3 pm & 7 pm, January 25
• New Jersey Symphony Orchestra • 8 pm, January 30
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Trenton Symphony Performs New Year's Eve Concert

The Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra is performing their 17th annual New Year's Eve Concert at Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton on Wednesday, December 31 at 8 p.m. Conductors John Peter Holly and Brian Katona will be joined by soloists Steven Ryan, pianist and Aaron Blankfield, tenor.

The high energy program includes popular and symphonic favorites, operatic selections and music from classic films. The featured work on the program will be George Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm Voriotions* for piano and orchestra. Based in the melody of the composer's best known song, Gerswin composed the work with the intention of performing it as an alternative to his *Rhopsody in Blue* in a 1934 concert tour he made with the Leo Reisman Orchestra.

Other works on the program include the *Romon Carnival Overture of Hector Berlioz*, the *Bocchanole from Samson and Dolilo* by Camille Saint-Saens, the *Overture to Condide* by Leonard Bernstein, the tenor arias, "Salut! demeure" from Charles Gounod's *Foust*, and "Questo o quella" from Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Three works by Russian composers will round out the symphonic portion of the program, including *Procession of the Nobles* by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, a *Petit Adogio* from Alexandre Glazounov's *The Seosons* and the *Woltz from Swon Loke* by Piotr Ilych Tchaikovsky.

The program will close with a presentation of film music from *Lowrence of Arobio*, *Gone With The Wind*, *Doctor Zhivogo*, *E.T.*, *ond Stor Wors*. During the performance, clips from the films will be projected onto a screen suspended above the orchestra.

Tickets are priced from $25 to $65 and are available in person at the War Memorial box office or by calling (609) 396-5522 or visiting www.Tickets.com.

Senior Center Hosts Opera Video Series

The Princeton Senior Resource Center and Princeton Friends of Opera are presenting a winter opera video series on Mondays at 12:30 p.m., at the Suzanne Patterson Building, located at 45 Stockton Street. Dessert and beverages will be provided and participants are welcome to bring a lunch.

The first video, *The Morrioge of Figoro* will be on January 5, followed by *Condide* on January 12, *Fidelio* on January 26, and *Immortol Beloved* on February 2.

The series is free but registration is suggested by calling (609) 924-7108.

Benefit Concert Celebrates William Scheide's Birthday

Noted Bach scholar, philanthropist, and humanitarian William Scheide of Princeton will celebrate his 95th birthday by sponsoring a concert exclusively featuring the works of Johann Sebastian Bach on Friday, January 23 at 8 p.m. at Princeton University's Richardson Auditorium.

Maestro Mark Laycock, who made his conducting debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the age of 21 and directed the Princeton Symphony for over 20 years, will lead the musicians in arias and duets from Bach cantatas, as well as other instrumental works. Laycock is currently based in Berlin, Germany, and has appeared with orchestras of London, Paris, Prague, Moscow, Kiev, Montreal, Mexico City, Seoul, and Taipei.

Mark Laycock

Also traveling to the U.S. from Germany will be the Bach-Collegium Stuttgart, founded by Helmuth Rilling. The orchestra, which has recorded the complete vocal and instrumental works of J.S. Bach, will perform Overture No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068 and support the evening's instrumental and vocal soloists in concerti and aria selections.

The program will feature pianist Mariam Nazarian, a Plainsboro resident and Harvard University graduate student who made her Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 16 as the youngest pianist in Carnegie's history to have performed J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Voriations*, BWV 988. In the upcoming all Bach concert, Nazarian will play Keyboard Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052.

Mariam Nazarian

Bringing leading European and American artists together for the special performance, the concert also will feature violinist Kristof Barati from Budapest performing Sinfonia in D Major, BWV 1045, as well as four American vocalists appearing courtesy of OperaNJ. They are soprano Layla Claire of Philadelphia, mezzo-soprano Emily Langford Johnson of New York, N.Y., tenor Scott Ramsay of Chicago, and baritone Daniel Mobbs of Louisville.

Mr. Scheide is a Bach scholar who in 1946 founded and directed the Bach Aria Group, a vocal and instrumental ensemble that has been performing and recording for over 45 years. This new all Bach concert again highlights the cantatas, celebrating a huge body of music by Bach "as beautiful as anything you could ever hear," Scheide says.

Mr. Scheide will donate all proceeds from the concert to Centurion Ministries, a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to free from prison those who are innocent of the crimes for which they are serving life or death sentences. Based in Princeton, Centurion Ministries has freed 43 wrongly convicted individuals and helped them reintegrate into society.

BENEFIT CONCERT: William and Judith Scheide will celebrate Mr. Scheide's 95th birthday with a benefit concert featuring the works of Bach on Friday, January 23 at 8 p.m. at Richardson Auditorium. Mark Laycock will be conducting the Bach-Collegium Stuttgart Orchestra. Proceeds from the concert will benefit Centurion Ministries.

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Opera New Jersey Wins $10,000 Challenge Grant

Princeton-based Opera New Jersey has announced that it has been awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America grant, in recognition of its outstanding educational programming. The company is one of only four opera companies nationally to be awarded a $10,000 Challenge America grant.

"This stamp of approval by the NEA is a significant milestone for Opera New Jersey, and marks another tremendous first for the company," said Scott Altman, Opera New Jersey's General and Artistic Director. "Thanks to this generous grant, Opera New Jersey will be able to expand its educational programming, bringing the joys of opera to a multitude of school children throughout New Jersey."

Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast Track Review Grants are an integral part of the NEA mission to bring the arts to all Americans. One hundred and fifty-one grants of $10,000 each, totaling $1,510,000, have been awarded for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose opportunities to enjoy the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. The projects often feature partnerships between arts organizations and other cultural, educational, or civic organizations.

Reaching more than 10,000 schoolchildren since the 2003-04 school year, Opera New Jersey has been producing educational adaptations of such classic operas as Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Bizet's *Carmen*, and Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. The company recently received its third straight Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The Citation recognizes arts organizations that "exhibit the highest standards of excellence in artistry, operations, governance, public benefit, and fulfillment of areas of Council priority."

Opera New Jersey will stage a production of Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, starring Ruth Ann Swenson, in February. Performances will take place at McCarter Theatre on February 13 at 7:30 p.m., the Community Theatre in Morristown on February 20 at 8 p.m., and State Theatre in New Brunswick on February 12 at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.Opera-NJ.org or call (609) 799-7700.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOUTH: On Friday, December 12, Princeton Symphony Orchestra musicians visited the Princeton Community Village Learning Center to perform an educational concert for Princeton Young Achievers. Violinist Kirl Murakami, left, and bassist Dan Hudson treated the students to violin and double bass solos and duets while discussing their training and work as orchestra musicians. Mr. Hudson also spoke about his dual passions for music and the Princeton Fire and Rescue Squad EMT, which he serves as an active member. The PSO gave each child a book of musical instrument stickers and presented the Learning Center with a copy of "Those Amazing Musical Instruments," with a CD-ROM for its library. The holiday party was hosted by Bloomberg L.P. Princeton Young Achievers is an academically oriented, neighborhood-based after-school program serving more than 100 children in grades K to 5 with learning centers in Princeton's public housing neighborhoods.

Music From "Belle Époque" On NJSO Festival Program

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will explore French music from 1870 to the First World War in its 2009 Winter Festival, *Paris: Fantasy & Discovery*, in three weekends of concerts from January 9 to January 25. The concerts will be performed at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, NJPAC in Newark, and Community Theater in Morristown.

The concerts will be led by two generations of conductors named Järvi — Neeme Järvi and Kristjan Järvi — and focus on music from the period known as the "Belle Époque," or "Beautiful Era." The 2008–09 season marks Neeme Jarvi's final season as Music Director of the Orchestra.

In Week One of the festival, the pianist Marc-André Hamelin, known for his artistry in French repertoire, will take the stage with Maestro Neeme Järvi to perform two works, the rarely heard *Africa Fantasy* by Camille Saint-Saëns and Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, originally written for pianist Paul Wittgenstein. The program will also include Poulenc's early ballet *Les biches* and Saint-Saëns's Symphony No. 3. Performances will be Friday, January 9 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 11 at 3 p.m. at NJPAC in Newark, and Saturday, January 10 at 8 p.m. at the State Theatre.

In Week Two, titled "Majesty and Mischief," the American soprano Pamela Armstrong will be heard in the orchestral song cycle *Shéhérezade* by Ravel (not to be mistaken for Rimsky-Korsakov's version). The program will also include Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Fauré's *Pavane*, and Franck's Symphony in D Minor. Performances will be Friday, January 16, and Saturday, January 17 at 8 p.m. at NJPAC, and Sunday, January 18 at 3 p.m. at the State Theatre.

The Week Three concerts, "Idyllic Impressionism," will be led by Kristjan Järvi on Friday, January 23 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 25 at 3 p.m. at NJPAC, and Saturday, January 24 at 3 p.m. in Morristown. A free conversation with Mr. Järvi will precede each concert, which will feature Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, Milhaud's *Le boeuf sur le toit*, and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe* Suites Nos. 1 and 2.

The *Belle Époque*, a time of peace, technological advancement, and cultural innovation throughout Europe, brought with it a flowering of creativity in French music. Toward the end of the 19th century, the innovations of French composers culminated in the masterpieces by Saint-Saëns, Fauré, Franck, Debussy, and Dukas. Their works will be heard during the Winter Festival along with later scores by Ravel, Milhaud, and Poulenc.

Tickets to all performances range from $20 to $82 and are available by phone at (800) 255-3476 or online at www.njsymphony.org.

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¼ teaspoon organic nutmeg
¼ cup candied ginger, finely chopped
4 organic pears, cored and thinly sliced
Whipped organic cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F.
In a medium bowl, blend butter, oats, and grated rind. In a separate bowl, blend sugar with nutmeg and ginger.
Cover the bottom of a 9-inch baking dish with one third of the oat mixture. Top with half the pear slices evenly spread in a layer. Sprinkle half the sugar mixture and half the lime juice over top. Cover with one third of the oat mixture. Top with remaining pears. Sprinkle remaining sugar and lime juice over top. Finish with a layer of the remaining oat mixture.
Cover pan with foil and bake until tender, about 40 to 45 minutes. Increase oven temperature to 425°F. Uncover dish and bake until crisp and golden, about 10 to 15 minutes. Serve warm topped with whipped cream.

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CINEMA REVIEW

Frost/Nixon

Langella and Sheen Reprise Roles in Adaptation of Broadway Play

On August 9, 1974, Richard Nixon resigned from the presidency in disgrace after becoming hopelessly embroiled in the Watergate cover-up. He retreated from the public eye for two and one-half years, after which he agreed to a series of TV interviews with David Frost with the hope of improving his tarnished image.

Frost, a British talk show host whose own career was floundering, paid the former president $600,000 plus a percentage of the profits for the exclusive opportunity. The investment proved to be worth the risk, because over 45 million viewers tuned in to watch the eagerly anticipated tete-a-tete. However, anyone expecting to see Nixon make an admission of guilt was disappointed because throughout the series of interviews he remained emphatic in his denial of any knowledge of a cover-up during his presidency.

Nonetheless, the truth didn't prevent Peter Morgan from writing a sensationalized version of the historic showdown which culminates in a confession by Nixon. Morgan specializes in fictionalized character studies of historical figures. Take, for example, the two movies *The Queen* (Helen Mirren) and *The Lost King of Scotland* (Forest Whitaker), both of which led to Oscars for the actors in the title roles.

Frost/Nixon, which stars Michael Sheen (as Frost) and Frank Langella (as Nixon), was initially written as a play which premiered in London to critical acclaim. It was then brought to Broadway where the hoarse-voiced Langella won a Tony for his convincing impersonation of Nixon. The screen adaptation of the play is heartily recommended provided you aren't bothered by the fact that its most compelling moments have been fabricated.

One critical contrivance revolves around a phone call a drunken Nixon never made to Frost in the middle of the night, and another around the President's capitulation and acknowledgment that he had committed a crime.

TV JOURNALIST FROST PLAYS "GOTCHA" WITH TRICKY DICK: Frost (Michael Sheen, right) cunningly tries to cajole ex-president Richard Nixon (Frank Langella) into making an admission of his guilt in the Watergate scandal that ultimately forced Nixon to resign his office in disgrace.

Unfortunately, while certainly entertaining in terms of its speculation about the awkward, mutually dependent relationship between its two principal figures, the movie feels a bit anticlimactic since, by today's standards, Nixon's alleged high crimes and misdemeanors pale in comparison to the mess about to be left behind by the Bush Administration.

Very Good (★★★). Rated R for profanity. Running time: 122 minutes. Studio: Universal Pictures.

—Kam Williams

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AT THE CINEMA

Australia (PG-13 for violence, sensuality, and profanity). A romance drama, set at the beginning of World War II just before the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese, chronicles the love relationship which blossoms between a genteel heiress (Nicole Kidman) and the rough-hewn rancher (Hugh Jackman) who helps her drive a herd of 2,000 head of cattle to market across hundreds of miles of unforgiving terrain. Aborigines in the cast include David Gulpilil, Brandon Walters, and David Ngoombujarra.

Bedtime Stories (PG for crude humor and mild epithets). Adam Sandler stars in this fanciful fairy tale about a hotel handyman whose life changes when the imaginative bedtime stories he shares with his niece (Laura Ann Kesling) and nephew (Jonathan Morgan Heit) magically start becoming true. Cast includes Courteney Cox, Richard Griffiths, Gut Pearce, Keri Russell, and Tessa Palmer.

Bolt (PG for mild action and scenes of peril). Disney animated adventure about a German Shepherd TV star (John Travolta) who discovers he doesn't really have any superpowers after being accidentally shipped from Hollywood to New York City when he has to embark on a humbling cross-country trek home with the help of a cat (Susie Essman) and a hamster (Mark Walton). Voice cast includes Miley Cyrus, James Lipton, Malcolm McDowell, and wrestler Randy Savage.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality, smoking, and brief war violence). Brad Pitt shares the title role with several other actors in David Fincher's adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic tale about a man born old who gradually grows younger over the course of his life. Cast includes Cate Blanchett, Tilda Swinton, Taraji P. Henson, and Elle Fanning.

The Doy the Earth Stood Still (PG-13 for violence and disaster images). Keanu Reeves stars in this remake of the 1951 sci-fi classic about an alien who arrives on Earth with an indestructible robot to issue a dire warning for humanity about living in harmony with nature. Ensemble includes Jennifer Connelly, Kathy Bates, John Cleese, and Jaden Smith.

Doubt (PG-13 for mature themes). Drama set in the Bronx in 1964, about a nun (Meryl Streep) serving as a Catholic school principal who becomes suspicious about her parish priest's (Philip Seymour Hoffman) motivations when he takes a special interest in her first black student (Joseph Foster). Cast includes Viola Davis and Amy Adams.

Four Christmases (PG-13 for profanity and sexual humor). Family comedy, set in San Francisco, about an unhappily married couple (Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon) forced to spend the holidays with several sets of relatives after their plans for an exotic getaway are ruined when the fog rolls in. Cast includes Robert Duvall, Mary Steenburgen, Dwight Yoakam, Tim McGraw, Jon Voight, Sissy Spacek, Jon Favreau, and Kristin Chenoweth.

Frost/Nixon (R for profanity). Ron Howard directs this screen adaptation of the Tony winning Broadway play recounting the series of television interviews conducted by British talk show David Frost (Michael Sheen) with Richard Nixon (Frank Langella) in 1977, three years after the disgraced U.S. President resigned from office in the wake of the Watergate scandal. Supporting cast includes Toby Jones, Kevin Bacon, Oliver Platt, and Sam Rockwell.

Gran Torino (R for profanity, ethnic slurs, and violence). Clint Eastwood directed and co-stars in this drama about a recently widowed Korean war veteran who begrudgingly befriends his Asian-American next-door neighbor (Bee Vang) after the troubled teen tries to steal his classic muscle car. Cast includes Brian Haley, Christopher Carley, and John Carroll Lynch.

I've Loved You So Long (PG-13 for smoking and mature themes). Drama about the readjustment to real life of a recently paroled ex-convict (Kristin Scott Thomas) with the help of her younger sister (Elsa Zylberstein) after spending 15 years in prison for the murder of her 6-year-old son. In French and English with subtitles.

Marley & Me (PG for mature themes and suggestive language). Jennifer Aniston and Owen Wilson co-star in this family comedy about a couple of newlyweds who move from Michigan to Florida where they learn a host of life lessons from their mischievous Labrador retriever as he grows from a cute puppy into an uncontrollable, 100-pound steamroller. Supporting cast includes Alan Arkin and syndicated columnist Dave Barry.

Milk (R for profanity, sexuality, and violence). Sean Penn plays Harvey Milk in this biopic about the gay San Francisco politician assassinated in 1978 by a Republican colleague (Josh Brolin) who successfully raised the "Twinkie defense" to beat the murder rap. Cast includes James Franco, Emile Hirsch, Alison Pill, and Diego Luna.

Nothing Like the Holidoys (PG-13 for drug references, mature themes, and sexual dialogue). Comedy about three Puerto Rican siblings (John Leguizamo, Vanessa Ferlito, and Freddy Rodriguez) who reunite at their parents' (Alfred Molina and Elizabeth Pena) home in Chicago for a turbulent Christmas vacation marked by the revelation of a big secret leading to a reordering of life priorities.

Quontum of Soloce (PG-13 for sexuality, violence, and intense action sequences). Daniel Craig returns for his second movie as James Bond for a mission which pits 007 against a diabolical villain (Mathieu Amalric) bent on controlling one of the world's most critical natural resources. Cast includes Dame Judi Dench, Jesper Christensen, Jeffrey Wright, Olga Kurylenko, and Gemma Arterton.

Revolutionory Road (R for profanity, sexuality, and nudity). Titanic's Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet reunite for this screen adaptation of Richard Yates' best-seller, set in the fifties, about a married couple in crisis who move from Connecticut to Paris to escape suburbia while trying to revitalize their relationship.

Seven Pounds (PG-13 for mature themes, sensuality, and disturbing content). Will Smith stars in this tale of redemption about a guilt ridden widower who opts to perform seven acts of kindness for perfect strangers before committing suicide. Cast includes Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson, Barry Pepper, and Michael Ealy.

Slumdog Millionoire (R for violence, profanity, and disturbing images). Romantic comedy, set in Mumbai, about an 18-year-old street urchin (Dev Patel) who becomes a TV contestant on India's version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* not for the money but to win back the heart of the girl (Freida Pinto) of his dreams. In English and Hindi with subtitles.

The Spirit (PG-13 for stylized violence, sexuality, and brief nudity). Frank Miller directs this screen adaptation of Will Eisner's superhero comic book series about a murdered rookie cop (Gabriel Macht) who returns from the dead as a crime-fighting masked crusader. Cast includes Samuel L. Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, and Eva Mendes.

The Tole of Despereoux (G). Animated adventure about a big-eared mouse (Matthew Devereaux) challenged to summon up the courage to save a beautiful princess (Emma Watson) kidnapped by an evil rat (Dustin Hoffman). Voice cast includes Frank Langella, Sigourney Weaver, Christopher Lloyd, Kevin Kline, Richard Jenkins, William H. Macy, Tracy Ullman, and Stanley Tucci.

Transporter 3 (PG-13 for violence, intense action, sexuality, and drug use). High-octane adventure with Jason Statham returning as the gruff two-fisted chauffeur on a mission where he falls in love with the kidnapped daughter (Natalya Rudakova) of a powerful Ukrainian politician (Jeroen Krabbe) while driving her from Marseilles to Odessa through a gauntlet of mob goons.

Twilight (PG-13 for violence and sensuality). Horror film revolving around the unlikely romance which arises between a beautiful young woman (Kristen Stewart) and a mysterious immortal vampire (Robert Pattinson) irresistibly lured by her primal scent.

Valkyrie (PG-13 for violence and brief profanity). Tom Cruise stars in this true World War II tale about several high-ranking Nazi officers who conspire to assassinate Adolf Hitler (David Bamber) in July of 1944. Cast includes Bill Nighy, Terence Stamp, Carice van Houten, Kenneth Branagh, Eddie Izzard, Tom Wilkinson, and Thomas Kretschmann. In English and German with subtitles.

The Wrestler (R for violence, nudity, sexuality, profanity, and drug use). Mickey Rourke plays the title role in this drama about a washed-up pro wrestler who comes out of retirement, despite suffering a heart attack, for one last match against his old nemesis (Ernest Miller). Supporting cast includes Marisa Tomei, Evan Rachel Wood, and Judah Friedlander.

Yes Man (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality, crude humor, and brief nudity). Jim Carrey comedy about a guy in a self-help program which has him answering "yes" to every question for a year. With Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper, and Sasha Alexander.

—Kam Williams

Top Video Rentals

Week of December 16-22

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2. *The Women*
3. *The Mummy*
4. *The Dark Knight*
5. *Traitor*

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VALKYRIE
Thurs -Thurs
1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55 (PG13)

DOUBT
Thurs.-Thurs.
2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45 (PG13)

THE READER
Thurs -Thurs
1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 (R)

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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
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December 26
through January 1:
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(R) 2:10

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Slumdog Millionaire (R) Fri. – Thurs., 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

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Milk (R) 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 8:55, 9:55
Valkyrie (PG13) 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
Doubt (PG13) 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
The Reader (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

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Sports

Sabky Displays Special Persistence, Work Ethic In Earning Key Role for PU Men's Ice Hockey

It was the opening goal of a routine mid-November regular season game at Union but it provoked one of the more heartfelt cheers seen in years from the members of the Princeton University men's hockey team.

The goal by Sam Sabky represented a key milestone in an improbable journey which has seen the sophomore forward rise from an unwanted walk-on to a valued member of the Tigers.

For Sabky, the goal was a product of following the system he has worked so hard to learn.

"It happened so fast; we were on a power play and I saw a chance to put it on net," said Sabky.

"Our focus is to put it on net and get as many chances as we can so that's what I did. It was great; my teammates were really happy for me."

The reaction from Sabky's teammates reflected their appreciation of what the 6'0, 200-pounder has gone through in his fight to get his foot in the door of Princeton's talented squad.

After a fine hockey career at Choate Rosemary Hall, Sabky was hotly pursued by such Division III schools as Middlebury, Williams, Hamilton, and Trinity.

But Sabky, a native of Madison, N.J., didn't even get a nibble from Princeton University, the alma mater of his mother and her father.

At his family's urging, Sabky went ahead and applied to Princeton, notwithstanding his other options and the Tiger hockey program's lack of interest in him.

Sabky ended up getting admitted to Princeton and shortly thereafter he was in contact with Princeton men's hockey head coach Guy Gadowsky seeing if he could walk on to the team.

While Gadowsky doesn't encourage walk-ons, he indicated that there was an open defenseman spot.

Undeterred, Sabky jumped at the chance, throwing himself into all team activities knowing that one misstep could have him shown the door.

"I started in October with captains practices and team lifting and then went into regular season practice," said Sabky, whose mother, Janice Benson, played for the Princeton women's hockey team and was the program's MVP in the 1979-80 season.

"I knew I couldn't slack off because there was no guarantee that I would ever play. Everyday i worked my hardest because I knew that was the only way I could ever get on the ice."

Sabky quickly found, however, that he had a good support system in his teammates.

"It's a real good group of guys; they all went out of their way to introduce themselves to me and encourage me along the way," said Sabky.

"They set such a high standard on work ethic; they set a really good example for me."

While Sabky never got into a game last season, he did get to take part in the sweetest moment of the season as the Tigers celebrated winning the ECAC Hockey tournament.

"I got to go on the ice at the ECAC and hoist up the cup," recalled Sabky. "That was to the team's credit."

Coming into this season, Sabky learned that his chance to get on the ice would be improved as Gadowsky was planning to give him time at forward.

"I had been practicing defense and I didn't know what the situation would be," said Sabky.

"When I came in, coach said I would probably be playing both; I said that was fine with me."

Over the summer, Sabky got the chance to hone his skills on home ice as his parents own the Princeton Sports Center rink in South Brunswick.

"I was working out all summer at Princeton Sports Center; it was a good situation for me," said Sabky. "I was abie to get a lot of ice time and use the weight room. I basically followed the team's summer program."

Gadowsky marvels at how Sabky stuck with the program in his freshman season.

"Sam worked so hard; he quickly became a very popular guy on the team," said Gadowksy. "He was very respected for what he was doing. He was at every practice, not one minute late to one."

It was during those practice sessions that Gadowsky saw that Sabky had the skills to help the team at forward.

"We knew he had offensive talent," said Gadowsky. "He scored some beautiful goals on defense in practice last year. He stayed after practices to shoot on goalies."

During preseason, Sabky worked his way onto the team's fourth line. He didn't waste any time showing those offensive skills once the season started, picking up two assists in Princeton's opening night 4-1 win over Brown.

"I had a little bit of jitters for the Brown game," said Sabky, recalling his college debut. "We played so well that it wasn't so bad after a while. It felt good to get those assists."

It took Gadowsky a while to get sold on Sabky's scoring ability. "When he got two assists in the Brown game, I thought it might be "first time fortune" but he kept on doing it," said Gadowsky of Sabky who ended the first half of the season tied for third in points on the Tigers with seven.

INCREDIBLE JOURNEY: Princeton University men's hockey sophomore Sam Sabky heads up the ice in a game earlier this season. Sabky has risen from a walk-on who saw no action last season to the team's third-leading scorer this season with seven points on three goals and four assists. Sabky and the eighth-ranked Tigers, who brought a 10-2 record into the holiday break, will resume action when they host No. 17 Minnesota State on December 29.

(Photo courtesy of Princeton's Office of Athletic Communications)

"When he got his first goal, it was the loudest I have ever heard the bench cheer. We know we can count on Sam to produce points for us."

But in Gadowsky's view, Sabky has given the team a lot more than points.

"I can speak for the whole coaching staff, Sam has done something special that has earned everyone's respect," asserted Gadowsky, whose eighth-ranked team brought a 10-2 record into the holiday break and will resume action when it hosts No. 17 Minnesota State on December 29.

"It takes a special guy to do what he has done; he is a valued member of this team. I don't think I could've done this."

As the Tigers head into the second half of the season, Sabky will be continuing his daily quest to be a valuable member of the Tigers.

"It was a tough ride; it taught me a lot about myself," said Sabky. "I have learned about persistence and dealing with adversity. I am happy I made the choice. Every day is a learning experience. If you get yelled at, you need to learn from it and move on. It is a long road but it has been worth it. It's great to be a part of this team."

And it has been great for the Tigers to have an inspirational player like Sabky on their squad.

—Bitt Atden

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Princeton's Community Newspaper

Ayres' Rebuilding Efforts Bear Fruit As PU Wrestlers Post Dual Match Wins

When Chris Ayres took over the Princeton University wrestling program in 2006, he was giving up a plum position.

The former Lehigh University All-American at 157 pounds was a longtime assistant coach at his alma mater.

During his tenure with the Mountain Hawks, the program won five straight Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) team championships and produced 12 All-Americans, including two national champions.

While Ayres relished his role in helping Lehigh solidify its spot among the elite of college wrestling, he was ready for a change of scenery.

"At Lehigh, I was in a good situation," said Ayres. "t had one of the best assistant coach jobs in the nation. I had been at the school 11 years and t needed to get out of my comfort level. I was not growing as much as I thought I should."

In taking on the Princeton job, Ayres was entering an uncomfortable situation as the program has been struggling for years after the sport was nearly discontinued due to Title IX and financial constraints.

Despite Princeton's lowly status in the world of college wrestling, Ayres saw potential. "I really liked Princeton," said Ayres, who replaced Michael New. "I think it can be one of the best programs in the sport. It is the top school In the country and it's in a location that fits wrestling."

Once on the job, Ayres realized he faced an even more daunting task than he initially realized. "tt has been real hard," said Ayres. "It's been a tough challenge."

The Tigers experienced some more hard times in Ayres' first two seasons, going winless in dual match competition.

But as the losses piled up, Ayres made inroads in changing the culture around the program and brought in some talented recruits. In addition, the holdover wrestlers got on board with Ayres' approach.

Earlier this month, Princeton made an important breakthrough in the rebuilding process as it topped Franklin and Marshall 25-14 to post its first dual match win since 2005.

Senior leaders like Marty Everin and Danny Scotten together with talented freshmen Dan Kolodzik and Kurt Brendel came through in the victory, demonstrating Ayres' ability to get through to different segments of the team.

A week later, Princeton posted its second win, an impresstve 34-12 triumph over Delaware State University.

White Ayres was confident that the match against F & M was going to be special for his wrestlers, he had to hold his emotions in check.

"I did think that was going to be the day but I had to be the guy that wasn't overly excited because we had a dual meet against a real good league team, Rutgers, right after that," recalled Ayres.

"I also told them that this is what is supposed to happen so t didn't expect them to celebrate too much. They stepped up; the match could have gone either way. I was real excited for the kids; they needed that."

The wrestlers needed the victory to validate the efforts they had put in over the last two seasons.

"They had been working hard; they had tons of adversity with not having a few weight classes and taking forfeits," said Ayres, noting Princeton is still behind in the numbers game with 18 wrestlers compared to the 30 or so carried by most Division I teams.

"The work was bound to pay off; we have made some pretty big jumps. We actually made some jumps last year but they didn't get as much attention."

Senior captain Everin has jumped into a leading rote for the Tigers. "Marty has been really good," asserted Ayres of his 157-pound star.

"We talk about taking on the lifestyle of a D-1 All-American and he has really adopted that. It takes more than working hard in practice; it involves walking the walk 24 hours a day. He is a vocat teader, he leads by example."

In Ayres' view, the Tigers need one of their wrestlers to achieve Atl-American status to help the program make another jump.

"We need to have someone win the Easterns and quatify for the NCAAs," said Ayres, who won an EIWA title on his way to Alt-American status.

"We need someone to step up and prove to the rest of the group that they can win Easterns and become an All-American by following our approach."

Ayres, though, tsn't sure whether that will happen this season. "Everyone has a ways to go," acknowledged Ayres, whose team dropped to 2-8 last Saturday after fatling 34-7 to Millersville and 40-6 to Lock Haven.

"Everin has a good chance but he is in one of the toughest weight classes in the league. Kotodzik has the high school accolades that predict that he could do well but he is a freshman and there is a gap. Travis Erdman was All-Ivy and Brendel has been our best freshman so far. He is 9-3."

The Princeton wrestlers need to develop a wtnning mentality if they are to excel come tournament time.

"They need to have the mindset of a champion; they have to know how to win," said Ayres, whose team ts next in action when it takes part in the Southern Scuffle in Greeensboro, N.C. on December 29-30.

"We need to get them believing they should win rather than just thtnking they should win."

Ayres has the mindset to take the Tigers to new heights. "I have learned a lot about coaching and myself," said Ayres.

"I enjoy this kind of challenge; it has been a whole lot of fun in a sick sort of way. The three years have gone by so quickly; it feels like I came here a week ago. These wins don't excite me; I have my eye on btgger things. I want to put people on podiums; that's what will get the program where it needs to be. It will be so much sweeter after what we have gone through."

—Bill Alden

REASON TO CHEER: Princeton University wrestling head coach Chris Ayres encourages his team in recent action. Ayres, who took over the Princeton wrestling squad in 2006, achieved a breakthrough in his efforts to rebuild the program as the Tigers topped Franklin and Marshall 25-14 earlier this month to post their first dual match win since 2005.

(Photo courtesy of Princeton's Office of Athletic Communications)

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By the Rev. Peter K. Stimpson

The Rev. Peter K. Stimpson

QUESTION: *Christmas makes me feel like such a loser. All anyone ever thinks about is how many presents they're getting and how much they cost. I'm just an ordinary guy who doesn't have much to give his wife and kids. I come out of this season of greed just thinking that I just don't measure up. Can you help me?*

ANSWER: Like millions ol others, you havo lallen into tho materialistic trap ol thinking that your value as a person is based upon how you mako and spend. While all of us will do our best to buy gilts for our family, try to think ol some meaningful and priceless presents that you can give to your wile and children that will not fade, rust, or end up in the back of tho closet. Consider giving YOU as a gift, offering your lamily your:

1. **TIME:** There is only so much ol you to go around. Rethink who you donate you to, perhaps cutting back here or there so as to be able to take your wile out lor a walk and a talk, to show up at your daughter's school play, or just stay at home, rent a video, and enjoy each other's company.

2. **EMPATHY:** Instead of getting defonslve when your wile or child tells you that their angry or hurt feelings, work hard to listen intently to how they are feeling, summarizing what they said and felt to make sure that you got it right. Whether it be your wile arguing for a new kitchen table or your teenago son lor a later curfew, put yourself in their shoes belore trying to givo your knee-jerk reactlon. Whether you end up buying the table or bending on the curfew, your wile and son will know that you care enough to listen.

3. **PATIENCE:** Waiting without blowing your top while your preschool daughter ties her shoes before you take her to daycare helps hor to develop autonomy and you to develop tolerance for life's ups and downs. Your lower blood pressure will mean less arguments at home, less stress on the job, and more happiness for you.

4. **SMILE:** Instead ol being grumpy, cynlcal, and an old grouch, trying forcing yourself to smile a little bit each day. Amazingly, you witl lind that it is somewhat contagious, your wife and children exchanging their sad frowns for a happy face, and you yoursell relraming what you thought was "a disastrous problem" into "a challenging opportunity". Gradually, you will be turning your family into optimists and problem sotvers, lor which all ol us will thank you.

So, my advice is that you stop worrying about what you cannot buy, and start ihinking about how you impact on your family, more so than teacher, peer, movie, or book. You have the ability to give them the priceless gift ol yourself, which you will not find at Macy's or Toys-R' Us, or even at the North Pole, just under your own nose.

This Wellness column is funded through the generosity of a grant from the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Charitable Trusts. If you would like Father Stimpson to answer a question of yours on family life, daily living or emotional health, you can write to him at: Trinity Counseling Service, 22 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. Trinity Counseling Service provides clinical or pastoral counseling on a sliding fee scale for all who need help and support. Phone Trinity Counseling Service at 609-924-0060 to set an appointment.

LEADING THE WAY: Princeton University women's basketball sophomore star Addie Micir directs the Tiger offense in a game earlier this season. Last Sunday, Micir hit a career-high six 3-pointers in scoring a team-high 18 points but it wasn't enough as Princeton fell 77-56 at George Washington. The Tigers, now 4-7, are next in action when they play at Syracuse on December 30. *(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)*

PU Sports Roundup

PU Naming Jadwin Gym Floor "Carril Court" to Honor Coach

In his earliest days as the Princeton University men's basketball coach 40 years ago, Pete Carril used to sit and watch the construction of Jadwin Gymnasium. Now his legacy will be as much a part of the building itself as the foundation he watched the builders pour.

The Princeton University Department of Athletics will be naming the game floor at Jadwin "Carril Court" in honor of the Hall of Fame coach who won 514 games and 13 Ivy League championships in 29 years at Princeton. An official ceremony will be held on February 21 when Princeton hosts Dartmouth.

"This is a fitting tribute to a coach who did as much to influence the sport of basketball as anyone in the late 20th century," said Princeton Director of Athletics Gary Walters, who played for Carril at Reading High School in the early '60s. "He has also had an indelible mark on everyone who has played for him."

Carril coached Princeton from the 1967-68 season until the 1995-96 season, compiling a record of 514-263. He took Princeton to 11 NCAA tournaments and two NITs, winning the NIT championship in 1975. His final team at Princeton defeated Penn in a one-game playoff for the Ivy League's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament on the night he announced his retirement and then knocked off defending-champion UCLA 43-41 in the first round, scoring the winning basket with 3.9 seconds to play on a signature backdoor play.

Carril grew up in Bethlehem, Pa., where his father worked in the steel mills for 40 years. The son turned to basketball at an early age, and he played at Lafayette College, where one of the four head coaches he had was Butch van Breda Kolff. Carril would go to the Army and then to coaching at Easton High and Reading High in Pennsylvania before becoming the head coach at Lehigh, where he was 11-12 in 1966-67. When van Breda Kolff left Princeton to become the Los Angeles Lakers' head coach, Carril replaced him on the Tigers' bench.

By the time he left, he had coached 33 first-team All-Ivy selections and eight Ivy League Players of the Year. He had given the game some of its greatest moments, including the 1989 50-49 loss to No. 1 Georgetown in the first round of the NCAA tournament, the UCLA win and wins over Holy Cross, South Carolina, Oregon, and Providence to win the NIT title in 1975.

He also helped teach a brand of basketball that became known as the "Princeton Offense" and eventually would spread to all levels of professional, college, and high school basketball. His coaching legacy includes five current Division I head coaches who played for him at Princeton.

He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1998.

Carril Court will be the name of the varsity game floor at Jadwin. It will also be part of the Dorrance Courts, which stretch from the east side to the west side of the building.

PU Men's Lacrosse Players Make Pre-Season All-America

The Princeton University men's lacrosse team placed four players on the 2009 Inside Lacrosse Preseason All America Team as announced by the magazine last week.

Senior midfielder Mark Kovler and senior defender Chris Peyser received third-team recognition while senior midfielder Brendan Reilly and senior defender Charlie Kolkin were chosen as honorable mention selections.

The Tigers, who went 7-6 overall and 4-2 in Ivy League play last season, open their 2009 season by hosting Canisius on February 21.

DAPPER DAN: Princeton University men's basketball sophomore guard Dan Mavraides heads to the basket in recent action. Last Saturday at Central Connecticut State, Mavraides produced a strong effort off the bench, scoring 13 points in 25 minutes. Mavraides' heroics went for naught as the Tigers lost 67-56 to fall to 2-7 on the season. Princeton plays at Lafayette on December 30. *(Photo by Stephen Goldsmith)*

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The Arizona Cardinals finally turned it around in 2008 and became a playoff team at last, thanks largely to the coaching skills of Ken Whisenhunt and the pass receiving skills of Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald. Whisenhunt went 14-11 in his first 25 games at the helm, the best 25-game start by a Cardinals coach since Norm Barry went 16-7-2 with the old Chicago Cardinals in the 1920's. Meanwhile, in their first four seasons together, Boldin and Fitzgerald combined for 642 receptions, second all time behind only Chris Carter and Randy Moss, who had 645 for the Minnesota Vikings.

* * *

In 2008, Vikings quarterback Gus Frerotte became only the second signal caller in NFL history to start for seven different teams (besides Minnesota, also Washington, Detroit, Denver, Cincinnati, Miami, and St. Louis). The other? Chris Chandler - Indianapolis, Tampa Bay, Phoenix, LA/St. Louis, Houston, Atlanta and Chicago. By the way, Frerotte and Chandler join Vinny Testaverde as the only quarterbacks in league history to throw a touchdown for seven different teams. Testeverde also played for seven - Tampa, Cleveland, Baltimore, the New York Jets, Dallas, New England and Carolina - but he never started a game for the Patriots.

* * *

Center Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets just might end up being credited with more construction startups than Donald Trump. It seems the NBA superstar has set off something of a basketball frenzy in China. The Chinese Government built 60,000 courts in 2007 alone, and plans to lay down another 700,000 over the next decade so that every village has one.

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With Goeke Sparking 2nd Period Outburst, PHS Boys' Ice Hockey Reaches .500 Mark

After enduring a 4-17 season last winter, the Princeton High boys' hockey team was shooting to reach the .500 benchmark when it faced Hamilton last Thursday at Mercer County Park.

Riding a two-game winning streak that lifted its record to 2-3, PHS had every reason to come out firing against the less than imposing Hornets.

But the Little Tigers sleepwalked through the early stages of the contest, falling behind 1-0.

Even though a Peter Twining goal knotted things at 1-1 heading into the second period, the PHS players got a tongue-lashing from head coach Tim Campbell during the first intermission.

"He was a little bit upset; he knew we were playing sluggish," recalled PHS senior forward Jeff Goeke. "He knew we could play better; he got us going."

After PHS fell behind 2-1 midway through the second period, Goeke got the Little Tigers going.

The team captain found the back of the net with 1:17 left in the period to knot the game at 2-2. Then just 29 seconds later, the fleet Goeke swooped in and banged home another goal to give PHS its first lead of the contest.

Classmate and assistant captain Billy Ward added to the outburst, scoring with 10.8 seconds left in the period to give PHS three goals in 67 seconds and a 4-2 lead going into the third period.

In the third period, Goeke added another score to give him a hat trick and put the finishing touch on a 5-2 PHS victory.

In reflecting on his second period explosion, Goeke admitted that he was fueled by some anger himself.

"I got a penalty I disagreed with so I was pretty upset," recalled Goeke. "I guess it just fired me up and fired the team up."

Goeke said the team was fired up to even its record at 3-3. "It is huge that we are back to 500," said Goeke.

"We haven't been at 500 in a while; we weren't there all last season. It is kind of big for us."

In Goeke's view, the Little Tigers got a big lift from their 8-4 win over Steinert on December 10 which got the team in the win column after a 0-3 start.

"Since I was a freshman, I don't think we have beaten Steinert," said Goeke. "They have always been a good team. Steinert beat us by nine or something like that. It was a huge momentum booster."

In the view of PHS head coach Campbell, Goeke consistently gives the squad a big boost.

"He was the first one to say when we got in the locker room between the second and third periods that we need to step up together and stop relying on one or two guys," said Campbell.

"He gets the team going, both verbally and by example. The kid skates like the wind. Leading by example is definitely his forte but he gets them going in the locker room."

Campbell went out of his way to get his team going during his pep talk after the first period.

"I was just telling them, you guys have to stay consistent," recalled Campbell, who was waving his fists during his animated monologue.

"You have to play to the top of your game every single game that you play. We could walk out of here 500 for the first time in two years or we could go down 2-4. It's a big difference."

That message didn't have an immediate impact as PHS found itself trailing 2-1 for much of the second period.

"*I did feel it slipping* away, the fourth goal was huge. Then bang, bang, bang, three goals; that was a big momentum builder for us. We played better in the third period; the intensity was there. We are not the kind of team that can afford to have a lapse like that for 29 and a half minutes."

While Campbell is looking for more consistency from his players, he likes the direction they are heading. "A year ago we had one win or something at the break," said Campbell, whose team moved to 3-3-1 with a 6-6 tie with Lawrence last Monday and is next in action when it plays Hightstown on January 5 at Mercer County Park. "Little by little, we are making progress."

Goeke, for his part, believes PHS can keep making progress. "We just need to continue to play crisp," said Goeke. "We can't have any sloppiness; we have to keep up the intensity."

—Bill Alden

GOAL ACHIEVEMENT: Princeton High senior forward and captain Jeff Goeke heads up the ice in recent action. Last Thursday, Goeke scored three goals to lead PHS to a 5-2 win over Hamilton as the Little Tigers won their third straight game to reach the .500 mark after a 0-3 start.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

WEB GEM: Princeton High freshman goalie Josh Berger gloves a save in recent action. With Berger shoring up the PHS defense, the Little tigers are off to a 3-3-1 start. PHS, which tied Lawrence 6-6 last Monday, is next in action when it plays Hightstown on January 5 at Mercer County Park.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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With Barber Making Smooth Transfer, PHS Girls' Hoops Prevails in Opener

LOOKING UP: Princeton High senior girls' basketball player Rachel Basle heads to the basket in a game last winter. This past Monday, Basle chipped in two points and some solid detensive work as PHS topped Hightstown 41-23 in its season opener.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

Molly Barber's face was beet red and she was winded after playing every minute for the Princeton High girls' basketball team in its season opener last Monday against visiting Hightstown.

But as Barber gulped down water after the game, her face was locked in a smile, basking in the glow of helping PHS to a 41-23 win over the Rams.

After being mired on the bench last season while playing for the Hun School girls' hoops team, sophomore guard Barber transferred to PHS hoping for a moment like last Monday.

"There were a lot of reasons I left Hun but I really just wanted to play basketball even if I was on a losing team," said Barber, who scored eight points and made several superb assists in the win over Hightstown. "I just wanted to get out on the court and play. It's really good to be tired."

Barber hit the floor Monday night determined to put in an exhausting effort. "I was just ready to come out hard," asserted Barber, who starred for John Witherspoon Middle School before making the move to Hun. "I know our team lost almost all of its games last year. I really wanted to prove a lot to everyone."

With PHS coming off a disappointing 1-20 season, there is a collective desire among the players to prove that they can be competitive.

"We have been working hard," said Barber. "We have been practicing and playing as hard as we can so we can come out like this."

It didn't take long for Barber to play well with backcourt running mate, senior Casey Moran.

"I have been playing with her since I was in fourth grade," said Barber. "We have a lot of experience playing together; we work really well together."

Running the PHS offense from the point guard position, Barber did well getting the ball to the post as forwards Keisha Brown and Julia Maltby scored 13 and 12 points, respectively.

"They post up well," said Barber. "We have been working on it in practice seeing the open man. I thought we played really well."

In Barber's view, playing well on defense paved the way to the win for PHS. "The defense won the game today," said Barber. "We rotated fine; we finally started talking."

PHS head coach Steff Shoop saw communication as a key to the win. "We slowed the ball down the way we were supposed to," said a beaming Shoop, the second-year coach who didn't get the first win of her PHS tenure until the team's final game last season. "We communicated tonight which was very important to us winning."

MAKING THE SWITCH: Molly Barber, right, applies the defensive pressure last winter while playing tor the Hun School girls' basketball team. Barber, a sophomore guard, transferred to Princeton High this year and had a special debut last Monday, scoring eight points to help the Little Tigers to a season-opening 41-23 win over Hightstown. PHS is currently on holiday break and will next be in action when it plays at Hopewell Valley on January 6.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

The addition of Barber was also important for the Little Tigers. "Molly is a very smart player," said Shoop. "She and Casey pass very well together."

The Little Tigers also benefited from the way senior Brown and junior Maltby played together down low at both ends of the court.

"Keisha played very, very well tonight on the boards," added Shoop. "She also played very smart helpside defense. Julia Maltby was everywhere on defense. She filled in every spot that was open whether it was post or whether it was a guard."

Shoop was pleased with her team's collective defensive effort. "A couple of balls bounced our way on offense but defense is what the made the difference tonight," asserted Shoop. "We were in control the entire game."

The Little Tigers' superb opening night effort has Shoop confident that more bounces will go her team's way this winter.

"I think that proves to us that we have gotten better," said Shoop, whose team is on holiday break and will next be in action when it plays at Hopewell Valley on January 6.

"We need to keep focusing on our defense. We need to keep focusing on communicating. We need to keep focusing on teamwork."

Barber, for her part, believes the team will be even more focused as the season unfolds.

"We are going to come out just as strong," said Barber. "We really want to win games this year and I think we can. Instead of winning the last game; we won the first game. We have a long road, we can do it."

And it certainly helps PHS to have Barber along for the ride.

—Bill Alden

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28 12:00-2:00pm 4:00-5:45pm 7:45-9:45pm	29 10:15am-12:45pm 2:00-4:00pm 8:00-10:00pm	30 10:15am-12:45pm 2:00-4:00pm 8:00-10:00pm	31 New Year's Eve 10:15am-12:15pm 2:00-4:00pm	1 12:30-2:30pm 4:00-5:45pm 6:45-8:45pm	2 12:00-2:00pm 8:30-10:30pm	3 12:00-1:45pm 5:30-7:00pm 8:30-10:30pm
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Utilizing Preparation, Aggressive Play, Hun Boys' Ice Hockey Ends PDS Curse

Coming into last week, Francois Bourbeau wasn't exactly sure when the Hun School boys' hockey team last posted a victory in its heated rivalry with Princeton Day School.

"Someone said we last beat them 12 years ago," said Hun head coach Bourbeau, who is in his seventh season guiding the Raiders. "It was certainly before my time here; it was more than 10 years ago."

When Hun hosted PDS last Wednesday at Ice Land Skating Center, Bourbeau was sure that his players were ready to get the PDS monkey off their backs.

"I felt this was the year we would do it," said Bourbeau, whose team did tie PDS 4-4 in the 2006-07 and lost 1-0 to the Panthers last season in the Mercer County Tournament semifinals.

"Last year we came really close. My team was coming into this game real intense. We wanted to break through; we were well prepared."

Over the first two periods, though, Hun's intensity and preparation wasn't enough as the teams skated to a 1-1 stalemate.

In the third period, the Raiders wasted little time getting the upper hand, taking a 2-1 lead on a goal by Sam Rosenberg.

Hun added two more goals as Brendan Gallagher and Ryan Samuels found the back of the net, putting the nails in the PDS coffin on the way to a sweet 4-1 victory.

Afterward, the Hun locker room was a noisy place. "They had a huge celebration; they deserved it," recalled Bourbeau with a laugh.

"We played our best game of the year; we played the system to a tee. I think they know they can win if they play the system and play together."

Bourbeau was particularly pleased by how his team kept its pedal to the medal after it went ahead in the third period.

"We made it 3-1 quickly and the guys on the bench were saying remember two years ago when we were up 4-2 and they tied it at 4-4," said Bourbeau, whose team improved to 3-2-1 with the victory.

"They stayed focused; they kept their intensity. Sometimes a team gets a lead and tries to hold on. My guys were still aggressive; they kept playing hard offensively."

Hun has been getting hard play all season long from senior star Gallagher.

"Brendan has been really intense every game," asserted Bourbeau. "He has been maturing through the four years; right now he is at a peak in playing ability. He is also a good leader in the locker room. That combination makes him a real asset."

Another nice asset for the Raiders is improving sophomore forward Peter Blackburn.

"Last year he was a freshman and he was a little shy," said Bourbeau". He produced on the ice but he needed to figure out the difference between club and high school hockey. In club, the players are his age while in high school, he is playing against kids who are 17, 18. He understands his position a lot better now."

Nobody on Hun is playing his position any better than senior goalie Travis Potts, who recorded 24 saves in the win over PDS.

"He is the backbone of the team," added Bourbeau, a former standout goalie himself at Middlebury College.

"Even in the win; he had to come up with some important saves. I am never nervous with him in the net; I know he will produce in the big games."

Bourbeau is getting production throughout his lineup. "All of my guys are progressing well," said Bourbeau.

"Every player is understanding his position; where he is supposed to be on the ice and what he is supposed to do. It's not one single guy, they are all playing well."

With Hun now on break until 2009 after its game against Landon last Friday was cancelled due to inclement weather, Bourbeau is worried that his players could lose their edge.

"We are off until January 5; it concerns me," acknowledged Bourbeau, whose team's next game on January 7 when it plays Lawrence High at Lawrenceville.

"We are making progress; I hope the guys stay in shape. We will have to regroup when we get back; it may take a little time."

When Hun does resume action, Bourbeau hopes they will build on the good time they had last Thursday against PDS.

"Hopefully we can keep playing like we did against PDS," said Bourbeau.

"I think the PDS win can be a turning point for us to really play well and have a big season."

—Bill Alden

CURSE BREAKER: Hun School senior goalie Travis Potts, middle, makes one of his 24 saves in Hun's 4-1 win over Princeton Day School last Wednesday. It was Hun's first win over the Panthers since the 1990s. The Raiders, now 3-2-1 on the season, are next in action on January 7 when they play Lawrence High at the Lawrenceville rink. *(Photo by Tim Pitts)*

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With Griffin Triggering the Attack, Hun Boys' Hoops Edges Army Prep

R.J. Griffin had trouble finding a rhythm in the first half last Wednesday as the Hun School boys' basketball team hosted Army Prep.

The post-graduate guard fought hard but only had two points to show for his efforts as Hun went into the locker room trailing 25-23 at the half.

During the intermission, Griffin got some inspiration from Hun head coach Jon Stone's halftime message.

"When we came to the locker room, the coach gave us a pep talk," said Griffin.

"I knew we had to pick it up in the second half. Every game we have played this year, we have been within two points or tied going into the last quarter."

Griffin didn't waste any time acting on Stone's words, scoring Hun's first seven points of the third quarter as the Raiders took a 30-27 lead.

Army Prep fought back and the teams were knotted at 35-35 headed into the last quarter. Once again, Griffin jump started Hun, scoring the team's first 10 points as the Raiders grabbed a 45-40 lead. Hun never trailed again as it pulled out a 52-48 win.

Afterward, Griffin beamed as he reflected on his stellar second half. "I knew we had to dig in," said Griffin, who ended the night with a game-high 19 points.

"I felt the crowd and they got me fired up. Going into the fourth quarter, I felt like nobody could stop me so I just kept going to the rim."

The backcourt tandem of Griffin and fellow post-grad Jon Lee has been tough to stop for Hun's foes.

In the win over Army Prep, Lee had 17 points and then he scored 30 last Saturday with Griffin adding 10 as Hun topped St. Joseph's (Montvale) 64-58 in the Hoop Group Tip-Off tournament at Union High.

Griffin said that he developed an immediate connection with Lee. "Since summer time when coach first brought us on campus, we clicked right away," said Griffin.

"He and I are best friends, off the court and on the court and that helps a lot. I am always looking out for him and he is always looking for me. We do everything together."

Griffin and Lee have gone out of their way to look out out for their teammates.

"They graduated something like eight players from last year so I knew it was going to be a young team," said the 6'4, 175-pound Griffin, a native of Middletown, Del.

"Coach Stone brought me and Jon in to be leaders; he told us from the get-go that we had to be leaders. So now, even though it is a little late, we are starting to click."

Stone likes the way Griffin led the way in the win over Army Prep. "R.J. is more of a guard but he had to play more of a physical role for us," said Stone, noting that the Raiders were without star forward Egheosa Edomwonyi who is sidelined for the next few weeks with an ankle injury.

"He did a great job. He has the ability to get to the glass and get by a guy and finish. He can also step outside and hit the three-pointer; it makes it tough for somebody to guard him. R.J. definitely has the ability to score and he made some big shots tonight when we needed them."

The chemistry between Griffin and Lee has helped the Raiders bond collectively.

"I think this team in general has connected pretty well considering that we have so many new faces and we were losing so many guys from last year," said Stone, whose team improved to 4-5 on the season with the win last Saturday over St. Joseph's.

"It started jelling from the first time the players met each other. Jon and R.J. have shown some chemistry amongst each other and have done a nice job."

In the win over Army Prep, Hun got some nice contributions from such members of the team's supporting cast as freshman guard Myles Melville and junior forward Rob Michel.

"Myles has got a lot of ability and did some nice things tonight," said Stone of the 6'3 newcomer who scored six points.

"He can do so many different things from passing to rebounding to playing defense. He made a big free throw at the end. Rob had a big blocked shot in the fourth quarter which was a huge possession for us. I had just spoken to him about rotating before that and that shows how coachable he is. He really gave us some good minutes."

With Hun having won four of its last five games, Stone knows he has to keep getting contributions throughout his roster if Hun is to keep rolling.

"A lot of different players made big plays for us," asserted Stone, whose team plays in the Hillside Tournament from December 27-30.

"It's a total team effort and that's what I like about this team. To come out and beat a really good team like that is important to our team and hopefully we can keep things going."

In Griffin's view, the victory over Army Prep could be a turning point for the Raiders.

"We finally know we can win these games," said Griffin. "We finally know we can close a game. From here on out, we can build off of this. If we get in a situation like this again, we know we can win."

—Bill Alden

ATTACK FORCE: Hun School post-graduate guard R.J. Griffin races to the basket in recent action. Last Wednesday, Griffin poured in a game-high 19 points to help Hun edge Army Prep 52-48.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

BIG JON: Hun School post-graduate guard Jon Lee dribbles the ball in Hun's 64-58 win last Saturday over St. Joseph's (Montvale) in the Hoop Group Tip-Off tournament at Union High. Lee scored a game-high 30 points to help Hun improve to 4-5 on the season. In upcoming action, the Raiders will play in the Hillside Tournament from December 27-30.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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PHS

Girls' Hockey: Keely Herring and Stephanie Miezin came up big as PHS topped Upland Country Day 7-4 last Wednesday. Herring and Miezin each scored two goals as the Little Tigers improved to 4-2 on the season. PHS is currently on holiday break and will resume play with a game at Lawrenceville on January 7.

Boys' Swimming: Peter Deardorff and Alex Zantal led the way as PHS topped Lawrence High 89-81 last Thursday. Sophomore star Deardorff posted wins in the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly while senior co-captain Zantal won the 50 and 100 free races. Other winners for PHS included Harun Filipovic in the 200 individual medley and Victor Honore in the 100 backstroke. The Little Tigers are off for the rest of December and will be back in action when they host Hamilton High on January 6.

Girls' Swimming: Victoria Cassidy set the pace as PHS posted a 90-80 win at Lawrence High last Thursday. Junior star Cassidy won the 200 freestyle and the 100 backstroke and helped the 200 medley relay to victory. Sophomore Kiersten Holswade won the 200 individual medley while classmate Katherine Rizk prevailed in the 500 free. The Little Tigers are off for the rest of December and will resume action when they host Hamilton High on January 6.

FLIGHT PATH: Princeton Day School sophomore point guard A.J. Rubin flies to the hoop in PDS's 65-50 loss at Rutgers Prep last Thursday. Rubin scored a team-high 20 points as the Panthers fell to 1-4 on the season. PDS will next be in action when it plays in a holiday tournament at Freehold High from December 27-30. (Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

Lawrenceville

Girls' Basketball: Ashley Perritt hit two free throws with 30 seconds left in the game as Lawrenceville edged host Northfield Mt. Hermon 46-45 last Saturday at the Eight Schools Invitational. Senior captain Tyler Simpson scored a game-high 17 points to lead the Big Red as they improved to 4-3 on the season. Lawrenceville plays at Pennington School on January 10.

Boys' Hockey: Unable to get its offense going, Lawrenceville fell 4-0 to Belmont Hill (Mass.) last Sunday to finish fourth in its 61st annual Lawrenceville Tournament. The Big Red, now 2-7-1 on the season, are next in action on January 10 when they face the National Sports Academy at the Olympic Center at Lake Placid, N.Y.

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OPENING STATEMENT: Princeton High senior guard Brian Dunlap looks for an opening in a preseason scrimmage. Last Monday, Dunlap helped PHS get the regular season off to a good start as he scored nine points to help the Little Tigers to a 67-50 win at Hightstown. Thatcher Foster led the way for PHS in the win over the Rams, scoring 15 points with DeQuan Holman and A.J. Dowers adding 14 apiece. In upcoming action, the Little Tigers will play in the Allentown (Pa.) Tournament from December 29-30. (Photo by Stephen Gold)

PDS

Girls' Basketball: Janie Smukler and Tiffany Patterson both had big games but PDS fell short as it lost 50-47 at Pennington last Wednesday. Freshman guard Smukler scored 19 points while sophomore center Patterson chipped in 18 as the Panthers moved to 2-2 on the season. PDS is currently on holiday break and will resume play on January 6 when it hosts Gil St. Bernard's.

Boys' Hockey: Spencer Gabin notched a first period goal but it didn't hold up as PDS fell 4-1 to Hun last Wednesday at Ice Land Skating Center. Goalie Ed Riley made 21 saves as the Panthers dropped to 2-6 on the season. PDS is next in action on January 7 when it plays at Bishop Eustace.

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Hun

Girls' Basketball: Cyndra Couch had a huge game but it wasn't enough as Hun fell 80-71 at Army Prep last Thursday. Couch poured in 33 points while Jah-Leah Ellis and Arielle Collins chipped in 14 points apiece. In upcoming action, the Raiders, now 5-1, will take part in the Blue Chip Tournament showcase from December 29-30 at Immaculata College, near Philadelphia.

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Local Sports

New Rugby Club Seeking Teen Players

The Princeton Athletic Club (PAC), a South Brunswick-area USA Rugby club, is seeking teenage boys, ages 15-19, who are interested in learning to play competitive rugby. No experience is necessary.

The high school team will practice at the Crossroads Middle School in Monmouth Junction where the club's men's team is based. PAC is actively recruiting high school players from North Brunswick, South Brunswick, Princeton, and surrounding towns to participate in the program's inaugural season in spring 2009.

The high school team will play against other sides in the New York/New Jersey area under the auspices of USA Rugby. The team is not sponsored by an individual community and there are no residency restrictions.

For more information on the sport and the club, log on to www.brunswickrugby.com. Specific information about the new team can be obtained by contacting Rich Beck at rbeck1120@hotmail.com.

Princeton Travel Hoops Recent Results

The Princeton Recreation Under-13 boys' travel hoops team topped Robbinsville 54-40 in recent action. Jack Sheridan and Langston Glaude each scored 11 points to lead Princeton with Chris Glazor chipping in 10 and Matt Vasseur adding 9.

The Princeton U-14 boys' team dropped their second consecutive one-point decision, falling 41-40 to South River in North Brunswick League play. Nate File led Princeton with nine points while Ellis Bloom added eight points as the team dropped to 1-2 on the season.

The Princeton U-12 girls' squad fell 45-14 to South Brunswick. Elisha Kotesnbader had a strong game in a losing cause for Princeton, scoring 10 points.

The U-11 boys' basketball team fell 39-32 to South River last Saturday at North Brunswick. Princeton was led by Harry Dyevich with 10 points while Matthew Lambert chipped in seven.

NJ Lacrosse Group Holding Ref Classes

The New Jersey Interscholastic Lacrosse Officials Association will be holding cadet training classes for individuals interesting in officiating high school boys' lacrosse.

Playing experience is not necessary but individuals must be at least 18 years old. Classes will be held throughout the state beginning in January.

To register or for more information, visit the association's website at www.njiloa.org.

NY Giants Youth Camp Slated for Princeton

The New York Giants Youth Football Camps will be holding a week-long session this summer at the Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart on Great Road.

The camps feature week-long full day programs for athletic skills, life skills, and fun. It is a non-contact program open to kids ages 6-14. The instructors will include professional educators along with such former New York Giant standouts as Bill Ard, Eric Dorsey, Charles Way, and Keith Elias. There is a 10:1 student to instructor ratio.

The camp at Princeton Academy will be taking place from July 6-10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information log on to www.nygiantscamps.com or call (877) 226-9919.

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Obituaries

Elda M. McCoy

Elda M. McCoy, 91, of Skillman died on Sunday, December 14. Prior to moving to Stonebridge five years ago, she had lived in Ewing for 29 years.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1917, she lived most of her life in Sarasota, Fla., and central New Jersey. While living in Pittsburgh with her husband, Dr. Urban McCoy, who predeceased her, she worked for some years as a cosmetics representative. She was also predeceased by her brother Vincent Miele of Bellefonte, Pa.

An active volunteer working locally with Meals on Wheels and a board member of ECHO (Ewing Elder Council Hospitality Organization), she was a painter who loved to visit art galleries and museums in New York, attend senior center classes, and travel with Elder Hostel.

She enjoyed her family most of all, and is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Larry Yermack of Skillman; three grandsons and their families; and four great grandchildren.

There will be a private family memorial service.

Donations in her memory can be made to Princeton Home Care Services-Hospice, 208 Bunn Drive in Princeton, in recognition of their valuable work in the community.

Cornelia H. Scott

Cornelia Hoeffel Scott, 71, a resident of Princeton since 1972, died December 15 at the University Medical Center at Princeton. She had been in declining health for several years.

Nina, as she was known to her family and friends, grew up in Chevy Chase, Md. She was the daughter of the late Admiral Kenneth M. Hoeffel and Mary Polk Drake Hoeffel.

Born in Los Angeles in 1937 while her father was stationed in San Diego, she also lived in Honolulu at an early age. In 1941, when then-Captain Hoeffel was transferred to Manila, the family moved to the Washington, D.C. area and ultimately to Chevy Chase. During that time, Nina received poignant and treasured letters from her father, who had surrendered the naval forces at Corregidor and had become a POW.

She attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Washington and graduated from the Shipley School and Bryn Mawr College. At Bryn Mawr, she developed a passion for acting, and continued to perform in amateur theatre for many years later when while living in Grosse Pointe, Mich., Houston, and Gladwyne, Pa.

When in good health, she loved to go swimming at the YMCA. Her greatest loves were her son, John J. (Bo) Scott Jr. and the opera. She supported the Metropolitan Opera and would attend performances whenever possible, bringing friends who shared her enjoyment. Her cherished pet, Placi the cat, would enjoy "Live at the Met" every Saturday afternoon with her.

In addition to her son John, who lives in Collegeville, Pa., she is survived by two brothers, Kenneth M. Hoeffel Jr. of Fredericksburg, Va. and Gaston Drake Hoeffel of Round Hill, Va.; and a granddaughter.

A memorial service was held at Trinity Episcopal Church on December 22.

Arrangements were by The Mather-Hodge Funeral Home.

Thomas F. Huntington

Thomas Foster Huntington, 88, died at his residence in Stonebridge at Montgomery, in Skillman, on December 16. Born in 1920, son of Edith Foster Chamberlin and Henry Strong Huntington II, he graduated from Asheville School, Princeton University, and Harvard Business School. His business career was varied, starting with management positions within Johnson & Johnson and later at Trans World Airlines as vice president and executive assistant to the president.

Further positions followed as president of Holmes Protection Company, president of the Buffalo Color, and treasurer and vice president of The Conference Board. Following retirement from the corporate world, Mr. Huntington consulted with owners of founder-managed businesses, addressing management and succession planning.

For 35 years, he was a trustee of Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey, and for two years he was the president of the Near East College Association. At various times he was a member of the Board of Directors of John Morrell & Co., Coral Air of Saint Croix (USVI), and Hilton International Hotels. He was active in Princeton University alumni affairs, serving as Reunions "P-rade" Marshall a record 65 times. In the town of Princeton, where he lived for more than 75 years, he volunteered for the United Fund of Princeton and was an Executive Committee member of the Friends of the Princeton Public Library. Active in the environmental coalition that successfully opposed the construction of the Duck Island Incinerator in the Delaware River, he was also an avid sailor, skier, cabinetmaker, dancer, and photographer.

He is survived by his wife, Jean O'Neill Huntington; a sister, Alice Allen, of Amherst, Mass.; his daughters Ellen Slade, Wilmington, Dela., Louisa Huntington, Hopewell, and Deborah Huntington, Brooklyn, and their spouses; six grandchildren; stepchildren Henry Fischer and Cornelia Sertl; two step grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

A gathering will be held to celebrate his life at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 17 at Stonebridge.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Friends of the Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street, Princeton NJ 08542 or to Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area, 437 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. Arrangements were handled by Hudson Funeral Service of New Brunswick.

Elizabeth I. Horton

Elizabeth I. Horton, 92, of Pennswood Village, Newtown, Pa., died November 7 at Pennswood Village. Born in Ulster, Pa., she lived from 1944 to 1982 in Princeton, where she was employed as a secretary at the Institute for Advanced Study for 37 years and was an administrative officer of the School of Historical Studies prior to her retirement.

The daughter of the late Earl T. and Marion W. Horton of Ulster, Pa., she is predeceased by her brother, R. A. Horton and is survived by her sister, Thomasine H. Armstrong of Pennswood Village, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the Fellowship Fund of Pennswood Village, 1382 Newtown Langhorne Road, Newtown, Pa. 18940. Funeral arrangements are handled by Swartz/Givnish of Newtown.

Heather H. Bixby

Heather Houghton Bixby, 65, died October 9 in Crockett, Texas. Born August 7, 1943 in Port Jefferson, N.Y. to William and Margaret Houghton, she was raised in Princeton, where she graduated from Princeton High School. She attended Juniata College, in Huntingdon, Pa., where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Languages; she was fluent in French and could read Russian and Spanish. She earned her Master of Science degree in Counseling from Shippensburg University. Until moving to Texas she was director of the foreign language laboratory at Juniata College.

She was married to Jeffrey Bixby for 15 years. It was his work that brought them to Texas, where she dedicated her life to working with at-risk youth.

After working at the McKinney Job Corps for eight years, she received her LPC, and then moved to Crockett, where she was at the Crockett State School for 21 years as a caseworker and Social Service Administrator.

Survivors include her dear friend Kaye Seth, of Crockett, and a special family friend Irene Hechler, of Lawrenceville, N.J., as well as many cousins from Long Island. She was predeceased by her parents and her husband.

A memorial service was held on October 18 at the Crockett State School Gazebo in Crockett, Texas. Cremation was handled by Family Mortuary Services.

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4:00 pm Holy Eucharist for children of all ages
8:00 pm Festival Eucharist with Combined Choirs, Brass & Timpani
11:00 pm Festival Eucharist with Combined Choirs and Choir Alumni, Brass & Timpani
Please Note: The 8:00 p.m. and 11:00pm services are preceded by a half hour of Christmas music for brass and organ

Christmas Day, December 25
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Carols

The First Sunday after Christmas, December 28
8:00 & 9:00 am Holy Eucharist at Trinity Church
11:00 am Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Choirs of Trinity Church with brass and timpani in Princeton University Chapel

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Religion

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Songs will be judged by Jewish music educators, musicians, rabbis, cantors, principals, or teachers employed in Jewish education. The songs may be performed at the Princeton Mercer Jewish Choral Festival on March 22 at 3:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Chaim, 329 Village Road, Princeton Junction.

For contest rules and entry applications, visit www.SharimvSharot.org.

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HAVE CAMERA, WILL TRAVEL: Dick Druckman, an award-winning sports photographer, will be the speaker at the Congregation Beth Chaim Men's Club meeting on Sunday, January 25 at 9 a.m. Mr. Druckman has been photographing athletes for more than 25 years. His passion has taken him around the globe, to the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, the Phillies-Rays World Series in Philadelphia, and many stadiums in between. His work has been featured in Sports Illustrated, Parade Magazine, and USA Today, not to mention area newspapers and high school yearbooks. Among his many photos from Beijing were images of three local athletes who competed in the Olympics: Rebecca Soni, who won medals in swimming, David Zhuang, the U.S. national ping-pong champion, and Carli Lloyd, who scored the winning goal for the U.S. Women's Soccer team. To attend the talk, RSVP to president@bethchaimmensclub.org. Congregation Beth Chaim is located at 329 Village Road East, Princeton Junction.

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Christmas Day Service 12/25 @ 10:30 am
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Crescent Ave., Rocky Hill, N.J. • 921-8971 (Office)
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Thursday, Dec. 25, 9:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday, 9:15am: Church School
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Christmas Day, December 25: 10am Holy Eucharist with Carols
The First Sunday after Christmas, December 28: 8 & 9am Holy Eucharist at Trinity Church
11am Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Choirs of Trinity Church with brass and timpani in Princeton University Chapel (incense) There is no 11:15 service at Trinity.
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Princeton Township Affordable Housing is currently accepting applications until January 19, 2009, for the purchase of the units listed below. For an application, please call (609) 688-2029 or visit www.princetontwp.org.

Efficiency Unit
If you are a single person household with an income that falls below $29,598.00, you may be eligible to purchase this property.

1 Bedroom Low-Income Unit
If you are either a single person household with an income that falls below $29,598.00, OR a two-person household, (residing as a couple), with a combined income that falls below $33,826.00, you may be eligible to purchase this property.

1 Bedroom Moderate-Income Unit
If you are either a single person household with an income that falls between $29,599.00 and $47,357.00, OR a two-person household, (residing as a couple), with a combined income of $33,827.00 to $54,122.00, you may be eligible to purchase this property.

Eligibility for Princeton Township's Fair Share Housing (Mt. Laurel) program is determined by total gross annual household income.

Income includes, but is not limited to: salary or wages (including regular and overtime), alimony, child support, social security, pensions, business income and actual or imputed income earned from assets, (including bank accounts, CD's, stocks, other securities) and real estate.

Under the State of New Jersey COAH guidelines, Princeton Township offers no guarantee or representation of unit availability for every applicant. Township qualification criteria include, but are not limited to: income, credit history, debt, household size, legal residency status and unit availability.

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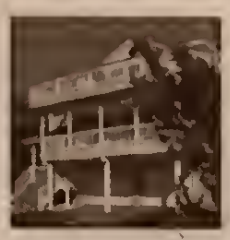
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12-17-4t

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12-17-3t

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12-24

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- Women are the first educators of children.
- Baha'is are followers of Baha'u'llah.

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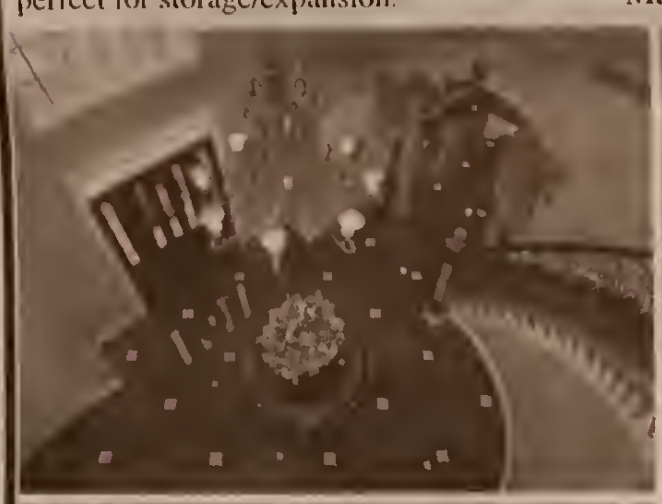

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